



# Jordan Times

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## Support rises for Israeli right wing

TEL AVIV (AP) — An opinion survey published Sunday showed the gap between left and right-wing parties has widened since the last national elections, with support for the hawkish parties eight per cent higher than for the doves. In the 1988 elections, the gap was only 1.5 per cent in favour of the right-wing parties. The survey, published in the English-language Jerusalem Post daily, was conducted by pollsters Hanoch and Rafi Smith, who have successfully projected elections results for television. It questioned 1,100 Jewish Israelis on June 23-30, with a plus or minus three per cent margin of error. The results were that 45.5 per cent of Israelis said they would vote for right-wing parties, with the largest chunk favouring the Likud bloc. It also showed that 37.5 per cent said they would choose left-wing parties, with the majority favouring the Labour Party. In the November 1988 parliamentary elections 41.5 per cent voted for right-wing parties and 40 per cent voted for left-wing parties. In both Sunday's poll and the last elections, most of the remaining support went to religious or predominantly Arab parties.

## Egypt names Ghali to seek U.N. post

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt Sunday nominated Butros Ghali, a veteran diplomat and a prominent architect of the 1979 Egyptian-Israeli treaty, for the post of secretary general of the United Nations. A foreign ministry official, who declined to be named, said the nomination was made through diplomatic channels in New York. U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's second five-year term ends Dec. 31 and he has said he will not extend it. The secretary general is the chief administrative officer at the U.N. He is elected by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council. Among five people who have held the post of secretary general until now are three Europeans, one Asian and one Latin American. Several names are being considered for the post including former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, and former U.S. President Jimmy Carter. Sadruddin Aga Khan, former U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, and Maurice Strong, former head of the U.N. Environment Programme, are also considered possibilities for the post.

## U.N. team plans report at week's end

BAGHDAD (AP) — A U.N. nuclear inspection team plans to issue a report at week's end that could determine the allied response to charges of Iraqi cheating on nuclear site disclosure. Dimitri Perissos, an official with the International Atomic Energy Agency, said his 37-person crew saw two previously inspected sites Sunday. But he refused to comment on whether it had seen or asked to see an elusive convoy of what the U.N. alleges is nuclear weapons-making equipment. "There will be no other comment for the time being until it (the team) finishes its job," Mr. Perissos told reporters at his Baghdad hotel.

## U.N. chief, Yilmaz discuss Cyprus, Iraq

ISTANBUL (R) — United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar met Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz Sunday for talks on the Cyprus issue and the situation in northern Iraq. Mr. Perez de Cuellar, who arrived Saturday for a four-day private visit, will meet President Turgut Ozal in the southwestern resort town of Marmaris Monday, Anatolian news agency said. It gave no details of Sunday's talks.

## Sudanese advised not to visit Egypt

KHARTOUM (AP) — The government Sunday advised Sudanese not to visit Egypt unless absolutely necessary after 260 passengers were turned back at Cairo airport this week. In a statement broadcast on state-run Omdurman Radio, the government advised Sudanese to make sure all their travel documents are in order to avoid expulsion by Egyptian authorities. "We would like to advise citizens not to travel (to Egypt) except in the cases of absolute necessity," the statement said.

## Egyptian police arrest fugitive

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian police Sunday recaptured a fugitive militant charged in connection with the murder of Parliament Speaker Rifayat Al Mahjoub. An interior ministry statement said police arrested Safwat Abdul Ghani, at large since April 17, while he was walking at dawn along the banks of the River Nile — only a few hundred metres away from the spot where Mr. Mahjoub was gunned down. The statement said Mr. Abdul Ghani was carrying a loaded revolver and a forged identity card. Another man accompanying Mr. Abdul Ghani, a member of the outlawed Jihad group which assassinated President Anwar Sadat in 1981, was also arrested. Police said they found foreign currency and arms in a Cairo flat belonging to Mr. Abdul Ghani and several of his accomplices still at large. Mr. Abdul Ghani, 27, escaped from a prison in April while being taken from a Cairo jail to another in Upper Egypt so that he could sit for his university examinations.

## Chevenement assails French role in Gulf

PARIS (R) — Former French Defence Minister Jean Pierre Chevenement, who quit during the Gulf war, told French Radio Sunday that the country's intervention in Iraq was nothing to be proud of. "Iraq has been set back 50 years, and is susceptible to anarchy and repression. It's not brilliant," he said. Mr. Chevenement, who resigned during the Gulf war in a disagreement over the involvement of French troops in the fighting, criticised President Francois Mitterrand for not bringing new ideas to French foreign policy. "Since the fall of the Berlin Wall and the renewal of the world order, France gives the impression of hesitating in its foreign policy," he said. "A head of state has the role of providing momentum. And from that point of view, we need a new class," he added. Mr. Chevenement was elected in June to the National Assembly in a by-election in the eastern French town of Belfort.

# Royal Decree repeals martial law

## Economic Security Committee decisions remain in force pending substitute legislation

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — A Royal Decree issued Sunday abolished martial law in force in Jordan since 1967. The decree said His Majesty King Hussein endorsed a recommendation by the government to repeal martial law in accordance with Item Two of Article 125 of the Constitution.

"As a complementary step towards the establishment of democracy, which we have chosen as a way of life, and as further corroboration of the climate of freedom, which we have chosen as a model for the country and the (Arab) nation, and in pursuit of

efforts to lay the foundation for the current stage in which we strive to build a state of institutions where all citizens are equal before the law, in true commitment to defending human rights and dignity of each and every citizen, and in response to the government's decision to repeal martial law ahead of drawing up new laws to fill the legal gaps which could emerge from cancelling martial law, we decree that martial law be abolished," the Royal Decree said.

The decree, carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, goes into effect immediately after the decree is published in the official gazette (the latest issue of the

gazette will be published today). The decree stipulated that all regulations issued under martial law provisions were cancelled, but made the following exemptions:

— All decisions taken by the Economic Security Committee (ESC) will remain in force until substitute regulations are enacted. These involve the August 1989 take-over of Petra Bank and the Jordan Gulf Bank, the subsequent liquidation of Petra Bank and the trial by military court of those involved in the collapse of the bank.

The Council of Ministers is empowered to exclude or include other cases from the lifting of

martial law as it finds fit. This provision is in force until substitute legislation has been enacted.

— The abolition of martial law and the exemptions made are not subject to any contest in a court of law or any other official body.

— Military courts will continue to function and try cases and the prime minister has the power to refer any case to the civil judiciary system.

— The prime minister is also empowered to endorse or commute sentences passed by the military courts with the exception of cases where the death penalty has been handed down.

— All these stipulations under the decree are final and cannot be

contested in any court of law.

The abolition of martial law came ahead of an extraordinary session of Parliament which begins Monday. During the session, the government of Prime Minister Taher Masri is scheduled to present its programme and seek a vote of confidence.

Lower House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat Sunday issued a call for the House to meet Monday.

The House will also fix a date for the new government to present its programme to Parliament and will call on provisional House committees to meet and fill vacancies in these panels.

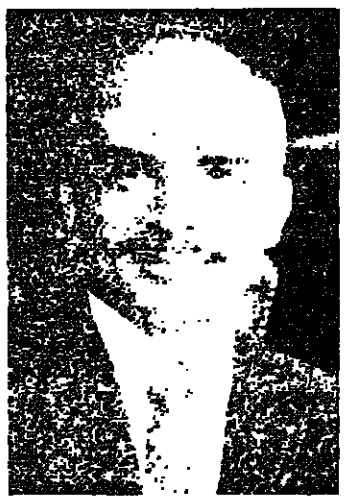
The abolition of martial law is

in line with the democratisation process which started with parliamentary elections in November 1989.

The government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran, which assumed office in December 1989, promised to repeal martial law and, in early 1990, froze most of its provisions pending the enactment of substitute civil laws.

Martial law was proclaimed in Jordan at the time of the 1967 war. It is based on a 1935 defence law.

A new defence law, which contains substitute legislation, has been approved by Parliament.



## Jordan, China to increase cooperation, boost relations

### Amman, Peking share identical views on Mideast

AMMAN (J.T.) — Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng Sunday ended a two-day state visit to Jordan after holding talks with Jordanian leaders and concluding agreements on promoting bilateral cooperation in various fields.

Prime Minister Taher Masri, who saw off his Chinese counterpart, said the talks revealed that Amman and Peking held identical views with regard to various topics discussed in the past two days.

The talks tackled political issues, cooperation in economic and cultural fields and prospects for increasing trade between China and Jordan, Mr. Masri said following Sunday's session.

"We focused attention on the prospect of launching joint ventures, benefiting from China's

vast experience and expertise, and the two sides agreed to convene a meeting of experts from the two countries to pave the ground for joint enterprise," Mr. Masri said in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, and Radio Jordan.

In reply to a question concerning the role China could play in giving momentum to the Middle East peace process, the prime minister said that China supports the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and that this position was emphasised during Mr. Li's talks here.

Mr. Masri said China opposes Israel's settlement policies in the occupied Arab territories and supports calls for an international peace conference to settle the Middle East conflict. He said that

China supports the idea of involving the superpowers, the European Community and the concerned parties in the conference so that it can have an international character.

Following Mr. Li's talks here, Jordan and China signed a protocol on bilateral cooperation in science and technology.

Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz, who signed for Jordan, said that the protocol regulates scientific and technological cooperation between Jordan and China and provides for the exchange of visits by delegations to discuss cooperation and of expertise related to research and cooperation among Chinese and Jordanian academics and researchers.

The five-year protocol can be

(Continued on page 5)

## Israel says it will stay in Lebanon until Syria leaves

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy said Sunday that Israel would oppose abandoning its self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon unless Syrian troops also withdrew from the country.

Mr. Levy spoke after a cabinet debate on the Lebanese army's assuming control of Palestinian bases as part of Lebanon's effort to reassert its control over the southern part of the country.

The move is expected to create pressure on Israel to dismantle the zone it controls in Lebanon — about 10 per cent of the tiny country's area.

But Mr. Levy challenged whether curbing Palestinian forces around the port of Sidon and taking their heavy weapons meant the Lebanese army could prevent attacks on northern Israeli settlements.

"Who could guarantee such

security if not the Israeli army," Mr. Levy said on Israel Radio. "There are foreign forces in Lebanon who more than once have collaborated or helped attacks on our borders. Certainly we cannot place our trust in them."

"When the day comes that all foreign forces leave Lebanon and a sovereign Lebanon wants to discuss peace, they will certainly find Israel ready," Mr. Levy added.

While Mr. Levy did not mention Syria by name, he was clearly referring to the 40,000 troops that Syria maintains in Lebanon.

No decision was reported from the cabinet meeting. However, several Israeli officials expressed scepticism about whether the Lebanese army would block guerrilla attacks on Israeli targets.

"They are remaining in their positions with one kind of

weapons or another," said Ori Orr, a reservist general and former commander of the Lebanese front.

In South Lebanon, Lebanese army troops raided Sidon's old bazaar Sunday and arrested some 60 people wanted for burglaries, smuggling or drug dealing.

It was the first time security authorities in Lebanon were able to crack down on the bazaar in Sidon's old quarter since the civil war broke out 16 years ago.

Those taken into custody included Lebanese, Palestinians, Syrians and Egyptians, police said. One suspect was shot and wounded by soldiers as he tried to flee, they said.

Also Sunday, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) fighters for a second day turned over anti-aircraft guns, multi-barrelled rocket launchers and heavy machine guns to the army.

## Iraqis resume search for accord on Kurds

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq's rebel Kurds and a high-level government team have resumed their search for an elusive peace and autonomy agreement after a break of almost a month.

Rebel leaders Massoud Barzani and Jalal Talabani, smiling and looking relaxed, sat down with President Saddam Hussein's deputy Izzat Ibrahim Saturday in the Kurdish administrative capital of Irbil.

The two sides, who have been negotiating on and off since the collapse of a rebellion in the Kurdish north at the end of March, had agreed to meet again in the next few days, it said.

Al Thawra, newspaper of Iraq's ruling Baath Party, meanwhile published an optimistic interview with Mr. Barzani in which he described outstanding problems as "only small matters."

The Irbil meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz and Defence Minister Hussein Kamel Hassan and shown on television. It marked the end of a month punctuated by statements from Mr. Barzani suggesting that the Kurds were on the verge of signing a pact with Mr. Saddam.

But Kurdish dissatisfaction with some details emerged after Mr. Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, returned from a visit to Turkey to discuss the deal negotiated in Baghdad by a team led by Mr. Barzani.

In his comments called by Al Thawra, Mr. Barzani said "with regard to democracy, we have reached a very positive result. ... a new draft law on autonomy has been agreed on and will be legislated soon."

"What remain are only small matters on which we will have consultations, so that we can formulate a final draft for the

agreement that will close the doors to all tendentious external attempts," Mr. Barzani was quoted as saying.

"When we talk about the autonomy region, we do not talk about borders separating two entities," Mr. Barzani was quoted as saying. "The republic of Iraq is one, and its borders are internationally recognised. We are concerned with its safety and protection."

Kurdish officials and sources spoke of problems over the boundaries of the autonomous Kurdish region — which at present does not include the mixed-population oil city of Kirkuk.

There were also problems with the status of the Baath Party in a multiparty system and suggestions that Kurds would have to help ensure internal security elsewhere in Iraq.

"A great deal will depend on this round of talks," Hoshiyar Zebari of Mr. Barzani's party told Reuters by telephone from Kurdistan before the Irbil meeting.

He said the Kurdistan Front, a grouping of eight parties, had discussed the draft agreement negotiated by Mr. Barzani. "They went back with a coherent position to resume the next round of talks with Iraq."

Mr. Zebari said it was too soon to predict when the two sides might reach a deal.

European Community (EC) development ministers drew attention Sunday to the plight of thousands of Shiite refugees stranded without food and water in southern Iraq.

Iraqi troops have surrounded up to 150,000 Shiites in marshland and are preventing them from leaving, Dutch Development Minister Jan Pronk said after the ministers met informally in a northern Dutch town.

## Serbs, Croats clash as EC seeks peace

BRIONI, Yugoslavia (AP) — Croatian militiamen and Serbian nationalists fought fierce battles Sunday, leading federal troops to intervene. At least 10 people were reported killed.

Meanwhile, European Community (EC) negotiators met on a scenic island to try to secure peace in neighbouring Slovenia. Both republics declared independence June 25. The federal army moved in quickly in Slovenia to try to force it back into the union, but violence in Croatia had until now been limited to ethnic clashes.

Federal army tanks and armoured personnel carriers moved in Sunday to halt fierce fighting between Serbian nationalists' positions in Tenja, a village in northeastern Croatia.

A Croatian defence ministry spokesman said the federal army opened fire on the republic's forces with mortars, machine guns and tanks and dozens of people were killed.

"We think that there must be dozens of dead people," said Mate Salinovic, the deputy police chief in nearby Osijek. "If there were no army, we would solve this in half an hour."

The Yugoslav news agency Tanjug and Belgrade Radio reported that the army tried to set up a buffer zone between the Serbs and the Croats but was drawn into the fighting.

Tanjung said, however, that Croatian militiamen and Croatian national guardsmen opened fire first at army armoured personnel carriers.

Radio Belgrade reported that at least 10 Croats were killed or wounded in the fighting.

Tanjung reported that a ceasefire was reached with the agreement of the federal army at 2:00 p.m. (1200 GMT), following ten hours of clashes.

Editors at the Osijek newspaper Glas Slavone said early Sunday Croatian forces fired artillery at Serbian nationalists' positions in Tenja. The Croatian defence ministry said the Croats held their fire when the army formed a buffer, but Serbian nationalists fired mortars over the army positions at the Croats.

An unidentified man, who said he was a member of the "staff for the defence," of Tenja, appealed on Belgrade Radio for Serbs to

## Israeli shot and wounded in Gaza

### U.N. special envoy meets Levy

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — An Israeli man was shot in the head and seriously wounded Sunday while in the occupied Gaza Strip to pick up workers for jobs in Israel, the military command said.

Military officials said they believed the attack was linked to Palestinian activists, but other motives were being checked.

The victim was "was shot in the head at close range by a pistol," after reaching Gaza to pick up workers, the army command said. It said the victim was from the southern port city of Ashdod.

Army radio said the man was shot while waiting for Arab workers at a junction near Gaza's southernmost point, Rafah. A second car pulled up and its passengers shot eight times at him, hitting him in the head and hand.

Somehow he got back into his car and drove 30 kilometres north towards the Erez checkpoint and entrance to the Gaza Strip, the radio reported. He collapsed near Gaza City where he asked an Arab driver to take him to the Erez checkpoint.

From the checkpoint he was rushed to Soroka hospital where he underwent surgery.

Dr. Eli Reichental, head of the neurosurgery ward at Soroka, said the man had been hit in the forehead and was in critical condition.

## Algerian police hold another FIS leader

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Riot police arrested another senior leader of the Muslim fundamentalist opposition Sunday, and a human rights group demanded an inquiry into the state-of-emergency crackdown.

Ali-Yahia Abdenmour, president of the Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights, said there may have been 6,000 arrests and 300 deaths since June 4. His figures, which he said were unverified, were far higher than the 1,367 arrests and roughly 55 deaths confirmed by the government.

The two top leaders of the main fundamentalist party, the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), were arrested June 30. One of the highest-ranking leaders still at liberty, Mohammad Said, was arrested Sunday.

Mr. Said was taken away by riot police while holding a news conference in an Algiers suburb to announce that he was taking over temporarily as chief spokesman for the front. Before his arrest, Mr. Said passed on an appeal from the front's arrested president, Abassi Madani, that the movement strive to avoid a ban so it would not have to go underground.

Mr. Said had urged release of all arrested fundamentalists and an end to the emergency. He said he did not know how many arrests had occurred.

Mr. Abdenmour said his estimates of arrests and deaths were based on unverified information received by his office from across the country. He said many of those arrested had been taken by

the last fatal Palestinian attack on Israelis was June 29 when an Israeli farmer was knifed to death in his field in a settlement in the occupied West Bank.

During the nearly 43-month Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule in the occupied territories, 835 Palestinians have been killed by Israelis, and another 406 have been slain by fellow Palestinians or unknown assailants as alleged collaborators with Israel, according to the AP.

At least 67 Israelis and five foreigners have also died in the revolt.

U.N. envoy meets Levy

The first U.N. special Middle East envoy for 19 years said Sunday he did not want to intervene in U.S.-brokered peace efforts but did not rule out a role for the United Nations.

"This is more an information and fact-finding mission than anything else. I do not wish to interfere in the present peace process which is ongoing and sponsored by the United States," Edouard Brunner said after meeting Foreign Minister David Levy.

Asked if this meant the U.N. did not intend to play a major

(Continued on page 5)

## International siege cripples Aqaba

By Rana Sabbagh Reuter

AMMAN — U.S.-led navies, enforcing a U.N. trade embargo against Iraq, are devastating Jordan's maritime business by tough post-Gulf war inspections, shipping agents and officials said Sunday.

They complained that allied navies were closely monitoring shipping to Aqaba, Jordan's only port. Amman was sympathetic but officially neutral in the conflict despite massive popular support for Baghdad.

Allied warships stationed in the Tiran Straits at the entrance of the Gulf of Aqaba have enforced tough inspection orders since the war ended in February.

"What is happening now is another way of saying no more shipping for Aqaba," Tawfiq Kharar, head of the Jordanian Shipping Agents Association, told Reuters in an interview. "They (the allies) are now

demanding that all cargo and containers on any ship heading to the port be accessible to inspectors, not just goods heading to Aqaba, once Iraq's main sea link," he said.

Ships calling at Aqaba usually carry containers bound to other Red Sea ports. Allied demands for access to all cargoes is physically impossible and is driving away shippers, Mr. Kharar said.

And tampering with containers carefully placed to ensure a ship's stability throughout its sea voyage could endanger safety, he added.

Jordan says it is fully complying with sanctions against Iraq, once its biggest export market at a huge cost to its economy.

Amman says it is only letting food, medicines and other humanitarian supplies go to Iraq after the U.N. slightly eased sanctions in April, when Baghdad accepted the Gulf war ceasefire.

Officials do not deny that some goods may be smuggled to Iraq across Jordan's long desert border though they maintain the illegal trade is negligible.

"Jordan is looked upon as the only culprit while the rest of Iraq's neighbours — Iran, Syria and Turkey — are enjoying a field day of smuggling without being questioned," said Mr. Kharar.

Ship agents and officials say inspectors were inconsistent and on many occasions did not respect documents issued by the U.S. embassy in Amman clearing Aqaba-bound goods.

Ships were sometimes stopped for several days before getting clearance to enter because not all cargo was easily accessible. At other times, ships were either cleared with no problems or turned back and forced to discharge cargo in nearby ports.

(Continued on page 5)

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## Violence rife on streets of Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Violence is palpable everywhere in Kuwait where four months after the Gulf war power still comes out of the barrel of a gun.

On Kuwait City's seafront an angry Kuwaiti teenager settles a row with a friend with the Kalashnikov assault rifle he keeps in the boot of his car.

Outside the city's Al Sabah hospital, a non-Kuwaiti couple abduct a Kuwaiti woman, beat her up so badly she can hardly see, and dump her in the street.

Shootings and beatings still occur daily. The government has been unable to win over its people to hand in the weapons abandoned by the Iraqi army after its rout by the U.S.-led allies.

Anti-aircraft guns, rocket-propelled grenades and heavy machineguns are among the weapons in private arsenals.

"The situation is scary. There are a lot of guns around and if

someone doesn't like you, all it takes is a bullet," said Ghanem Al Najjar, an opposition politician and leading human rights activist.

The Gulf war has shattered the peace among Kuwait's mosaic of nationalities and ethnic groups and spawned a pervasive sense of insecurity at every social level.

Palestinians, once the mainstay of the education system and the business community, are viewed with hostility because of what is seen as Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's support for the Iraqi government.

Only about 100,000 Palestinians remain in Kuwait from a pre-war population of more than double that figure. Many are preparing to leave despite the government's efforts to stamp out the violence.

And there are other tensions — between Sunni Muslims and a

vocal minority of Shi'ites, between the merchant class and the ruling elite, between established families holding on to their privileges and those who hoped that the war would permit them to climb the social ladder.

Politicians and diplomats do not believe that a major outbreak of violence is imminent although Kuwaiti ministers have begun to talk of a possible fifth column sponsored by Iraq which might resort to armed subversion.

The government has set two deadlines for citizens to surrender arms, threatening house searches and stiff jail terms. But the police admitted this week the effort has failed.

"By leaving its weapons behind, Iraq has sown the seeds of civil war in Kuwait," said one Palestinian intellectual who did not wish to be named.

The seven-month Iraqi occupation has, however, forever scar-

red a country which once prided itself on its tranquillity.

"People are sad, very sad," said Mr. Najjar. "The brutality will not disappear overnight. People first need some sense of the future."

Violence has entered Kuwaiti culture. Videos of the Gulf war play over and over in hotel lobbies and supermarkets, dwelling on pictures of charred and mutilated bodies.

Books filled with graphic photographs of Kuwaiti victims of the war and occupation lie on shop shelves within full reach of children.

Even everyday language has grown aggressive especially when Kuwaitis refer to the Palestinians.

"If I had my way they would be castrated," one English-educated Kuwaiti businessman said recently. "They should be marched across the border to Iraq to die."

## Talks on force to protect Kuwait postponed

KUWAIT (R) — Troubled talks between Kuwait and its Arab allies on the formation of a joint force to be deployed in the emirate have been called off again.

Foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria and the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states had been due to meet in Kuwait Tuesday to consider the plan.

The Kuwaiti Information Ministry Sunday gave no reason for the postponement and said no new date had yet been set.

But diplomats said negotiations have been beset by problems since the joint defence force involving the eight states was first mooted immediately after the Gulf war ended in February.

They said there were problems about the cost, numbers and composition of the force.

"The Kuwaitis are bothered by the conviction that when the Egyptians look at them they see only dollar signs," a Western diplomat said.

They also said that some Kuwaitis, while appreciating Syria's support during the Gulf crisis, were uneasy about the country's headline past and its willingness to use force in Lebanon, where it maintains 40,000 troops.

Last month it appeared that the GCC, Egypt and Syria had broadly agreed on a 26,000-strong force to be stationed in the emirate behind a small U.N. monitoring force on the Kuwait-Iraq border.

Western diplomats had said Saudi Arabia would provide 10,000 troops, the rest of the GCC — Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oman, Qatar and Kuwait itself — another 10,000, and Egypt and Syria 3,000 each.

The Gulf states are anxious to fill the security vacuum in the

region following the departure of the Western-led forces which spearheaded the liberation of Kuwait.

Many Arabs see a formal Western military presence anywhere in the region as a throwback to the colonial past.

Cairo and Damascus have always maintained that they only joined the U.S.-led alliance against Iraq as a means to push the Iraqi army out of Kuwait and have been pressing for a purely Arab post-war security pact.

Central to the Syrian and Egyptian roles in the proposed force was the promise of investment in the two country's cash-starved economies by the oil-rich Gulf states.

The Kuwaitis were anxious about the price Damascus and Cairo wanted for their services at a time when the emirate was unable to generate foreign exchange from its oil wells, set ablaze in the war.

Economists say Kuwait has already pledged some \$20 billion to the main players in Operation Desert Storm — roughly the same cost again as its post-war reconstruction.

Some Gulf states, say diplomats, are privately dismayed at the prospect of a complete withdrawal by the end of August of the Western troops.

"They are convinced there is no substitute for Western might," one Gulf-based diplomat said.

Iran, which following Iraq's demise has the most powerful army in the Gulf, also wants to play a key role in post-Gulf war security.

Tehran vehemently opposes any foreign presence in the Gulf and has so far been excluded from the Arab states' plans.

Kuwait also has to address shortcomings in its own armed forces.

## Mideast arms controls may prove elusive for sellers

PARIS (AP) — Senior diplomats from the world's five biggest arms sellers convene Monday in an unprecedented attempt to restrain the flow of their weapons exports to the Middle East.

But even before the two-day meeting begins obstacles are evident. None of the arms producers want to lose out in the increasingly competitive market, and all will find solutions elusive as long as hostility divides Arabs and Israelis.

The five countries — the United States, the Soviet Union, France, Britain and China — have provided the volatile region with an estimated 85 per cent of its arms in recent years.

But the Gulf war, and in particular the massive Iraqi arsenal purchased from Moscow, Paris, Beijing and elsewhere — has prompted a re-examination of this lucrative trade.

"We must prevent another Iraq," Richard Clarke, a member of the U.S. delegation, recently told Congress. "The Iraqi regime had produced 6,000 main battle tanks. That force was clearly in excess of Iraq's legitimate self-defence requirements ... No agreed standard existed to say that it was wrong. We want to fix that."

The meeting is to be the first of several, aimed at developing coordination and communication among the participants. The five, in addition to being major arms sellers, hold the permanent seats on the U.N. Security Council and possess the biggest nuclear arsenals.

France suggested the meeting in early June when it proposed a

global arms control plan. The talks this week will focus on an initiative by U.S. President Bush's aimed at the Middle East.

Mr. Bush has advocated "collective self-restraint" among the major arms suppliers.

The U.S. proposal espouses an arms embargo on Iraq and the elimination of its weapons of mass destruction, the establishment of a system to prevent destabilising exports of conventional weapons, a ban on transfers of weapons of mass destruction, and more openness about weapons transactions.

But even if the five agree that restraint is warranted, there may be disagreements on how to exercise it.

Mr. Bush has said the United States will continue "supporting the legitimate need of every state to defend itself." To some, this means America will sell whatever it wishes to whomever it chooses.

France, like the United States, has been chided for promoting arms controls and exports simultaneously. The Defence Ministry reported last week that French arms sales had soared 70 per cent in 1990, to \$5.5 billion.

The ministry attributed the surge to the Gulf crisis and said 61 per cent of the exports went to the Middle East.

Britain says it favours a more responsible approach to weapons transactions "without prejudicing the legitimate interests" of British defence exporters.

China's Prime Minister Li Peng said his government would adopt a "very positive" approach in Paris, pushing for a plan that covers all countries.

## Iraqis to Americans: No hard feelings

By Michael Hirsh  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The Iraqi soldier with a bristly mustache, rifle slung low, scowled as he peered into the car at the military checkpoint outside Baghdad.

Hesitantly, the passengers identified themselves as American, expecting hostility.

Surprisingly, the soldier smiled and waved the car on.

Far from resenting the United States for crippling their economy in the Gulf war, many Iraqis seem to be reaching out to the country that helped make them international pariahs.

Hotel clerks, cab drivers and women in black robes carrying wailing, malnourished infants bestow many unexpected smiles on visiting Americans.

Even some Republican Guardsmen are friendly to visitors whose countrymen were their antagonists on the desert battlefields around Kuwait five months ago.

"I've been surprised since I've been in Baghdad at the attitude the Iraqis have had. They don't seem to be bitter," said U.S. army Colonel Douglas Englund.

"I haven't seen any hostility. I feel that we'd be a whole lot different" towards Iraqis in the United States, Col. Englund said.

He arrived June 30 to direct the destruction of Iraq's ballistic missiles.

Kevin Doherty, an Irish Roman Catholic priest who runs a refugee aid office in Jordan and visits Iraq frequently, said that "because of all the negative pub-

licity, foreigners think they're a nation of terrorists."

"They're a wonderful people," he said. "But they feel a sense of isolation, almost abandonment."

In part, Iraqi goodwill is just plain Arab hospitality, a generosity to strangers drawn from the centuries of lonely bedouin life, said Jabra Ibrahim Jabra, one of the giants of contemporary Arab letters.

Part of it comes from the dismay of Iraqis, whose country is often called the cradle of civilisation, at finding themselves internationally vilified over the Gulf crisis, he said.

Mr. Jabra, a 70-year-old Palestinian who has been in Iraq since 1948, felt plenty of bitterness towards the United States as he huddled with his wife during allied bombing raids, but that has faded.

"We thought that if only we could talk to them as human beings we could tell them we're not really that savage, that cruel," said Mr. Jabra, renowned for his Arabic translations of Shakespeare.

To be sure, many Iraqis have no love for the United States. But the deepest resentment is against President Bush, not so much for the tens of thousands of Iraqi military deaths as the country's economic hardship.

Qasim Moh Ismail, director of Baghdad's children's hospital where war-related malnutrition and disease are treated, said: "We like you (Americans) very much ... because we find a great difference between the people and the government."

## Unemployment compounds problems in Gaza

RAFAH, Occupied Gaza Strip (AP) — Young Palestinians hang around a music shop in the centre of this dusty border town, unemployed and bored.

Palestinians and U.N. aid officials say the situation in the coastal strip, already dismal after 42 months of confrontation with Israeli occupation forces, has reached a new and dangerous low since the Gulf war.

One of the men in the music shop is a teacher who cannot even find work as a house painter. Another is a waiter, a third a college senior who is idle because the army closed the university to curb anti-Israeli demonstrations.

There are few jobs in Gaza and thousands of Palestinians, including these young men, have been denied army permits to work in Israel.

What had been a daily street battle with the Israelis has ebbed to sullen silence in the summer heat, but the threat of new violence lingers.

"If things continue like this, Gaza will explode," said Hammed M'salem, 30, the teacher. Dovish Israelis argue that conditions are so bad that Israel

should simply get out. The government, intent on keeping Gaza, has promised tax concessions to encourage local industry, but Palestinians say the programme might not show results for at least a decade.

About 750,000 Palestinians live in the Gaza Strip. Nearly 280,000 are in squalid refugee camps, increasingly dependent on emergency food and money from U.N. and other international agencies.

Saleh Abdul Shafi, an economist who runs an industrial development centre in Gaza City, gauges the problem by the growing number of women begging on the streets, faces veiled to mask their shame.

"You find three or four people begging in every block," he said. "They need food, milk for their babies. This is new to Gaza."

He estimates unemployment at 35 to 40 per cent of the 110,000 workers.

Because of knife attacks on Israelis by Gazans working in Israel, the army has granted permits to fewer than half the 56,000 who had jobs there before the Gulf war.

Gaza also has lost millions of dollars in aid from Gulf oil states that were angered by Palestinian support for Iraq.

Crime is increasing, especially burglary.

Palestinians were shocked earlier this month by the murder of Mazen Zaki Khayal, a respected 45-year-old businessman killed by masked men who burglarised his home.

Such crimes are rare in Gaza, and thousands attended Mr. Khayal's funeral.

Ahmed Al Ashcar, recently released after serving nearly three years in jail as an organiser of the uprising, said Palestinians watch helplessly as Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union take their jobs in Israel.

"The United Nations, the United States and many Western countries rushed to save Kuwait from Iraq, but we are ignored," he said.

Dr. Abdul Aziz Thabet, a psychiatrist with the Gaza community mental health programme, said economic and political troubles create depression and anxiety.

His office treats more than 30

people a day, compared to 12 before the war.

"Mothers are depressed and worried because they can't feed their children," he said. "Fathers are anxious about their inability to provide."

The U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which supervises aid to Palestinian refugees, resumed food distribution throughout the Gaza Strip in January for the first time in nine years. Four deliveries of flour, milk, rice and wheat have been made.

Lex Takkenberg, a U.N. coordinator, said applications for emergency relief have doubled to 2,000 a month.

"It is not unusual for U.N. workers to find extended families of 12 or 13 people trying to survive on the income of just one worker," Mr. Takkenberg said.

Even those with work have trouble getting by.

Khaled Abdul, 26, used to earn \$200 a week in Tel Aviv's largest outdoor market. He now sells watermelons on a Rafah street corner and said he takes home less than \$200 a month.

## Cyprus hopes visits to Turkey will break deadlock

NICOSIA (R) — The Cyprus government hopes a string of foreign visits to Turkey in July will help break the deadlock over the 17-year partition of the Mediterranean island.

"All roads lead to Ankara in the next few weeks. We have assurances Cyprus will be on the agenda, and high on the agenda, and that is why we attach high hopes to all these visits," Foreign Minister George Iacovou told Reuters.

U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, making a last push to solve the problem before he retires at the end of the year, will meet Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz Sunday and President Turgut Ozal Monday.

U.S. President George Bush, on visits to Greece and Turkey later in the month, is expected to bring up Cyprus.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd is also due in Turkey during July.

Cyprus has been split since 1974, when Turkish troops occupied the northern third after a short-lived coup in Nicosia, backed by the military Junta then ruling Greece.

U.N.-sponsored talks between the leaders of the two communities broke down in New York last year.

There has been a flurry of diplomatic contacts on Cyprus and U.N. officials are due in Athens, Ankara and Nicosia this month in a new round of contacts expected to include talks on an international meeting on Cyprus.

Mr. De Cuellar told the U.N. Security Council last month he would support a high level international meeting if it could bring about agreement on an outline settlement.

But he said a meeting could not take place unless the two sides reach "agreement range" on refugees and territory, the issues the Cyprus government says are

crucial to progress.

"Mr. Ozal has been making a lot of statements about how willing he is to solve the Cyprus problem."

"We will only be convinced when he comes out with specific and reasonable proposals on the issues of territory and the rights of displaced persons," Mr. Iacovou said.

But Mustafa Erbilien, deputy leader of the ruling national unity party in breakaway North Cyprus, said pressure on Turkey to make concessions on these two issues would be a mistake.

"Pressure will not bring about a fair, lasting and honourable as well as workable settlement. The Turkish Cypriots cannot make concessions on territory for the sake of appeasing the Greek Cypriots," he said.

Increased international interest in Cyprus, especially from the United States, and Bush's forthcoming visit to the region has encouraged hopes that superpower involvement may finally produce a breakthrough.

"Following the Gulf war from which analogies were drawn which are valid in the case of Cyprus, the new awareness that Security Council resolutions must be implemented and the new vision of President Bush that we are entering a new order, all these are acting towards one result — the effort to resolve the Cyprus problem," Mr. Iacovou said.

"I think the time is ripe," he added.

"I have no doubt that in the friendly discussions President Bush will be having with Mr. Ozal the question that the Cyprus problem must be resolved equitably, within the new spirit and in accordance with U.N. resolutions, will be raised. So we do expect rather a lot from the Bush visit to Ankara," he said.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### 'Iraqi spies' still active in Kuwait

NEW YORK (R) — Iraqi spies are still active in Kuwait and a special squad has been formed to flush them out, the emirate's interior minister told the New York Times in an interview published Sunday. "The Iraqis are my main target," Sheikh Ahmad Hamoud Al Jaber Al Sabah told a Times reporter in Kuwait City. "They are the ones who are the enemy." One or two suspected Iraqi agents are being arrested almost daily as a result of the special investigation team's efforts, Sheikh Ahmad told the Times. "Some of them are soldiers, some are civilians who came to work for the Iraqi government during the occupation, and they are still here," he told the newspaper.

### Jewish Sabbath wars rekindled

TEL AVIV (R) — Ultra-religious and secular Jews are battling again — this time over whether to close a new road on the Sabbath. A motorcyclist was hurt over the weekend skidding on a road blocked with iron posts by ultra-religious Jews living nearby. A ultra-religious Jewish synagogue was desecrated in what may have been retaliation. Scrawled on the wall was the slogan: "Death to the religious." "We are creating problems," ultra-religious organizer Yehuda Meshi Zahav admitted Sunday. "We warned in the past before the road was planned, that this road would create problems." Mr. Zahav said each Sabbath — a 25-hour period strating at sunset Friday — traffic should avoid the road so as not to desecrate the holy day in the Maalot Dafna neighbourhood. Ultra-religious community has clashed with Israel's secular majority in the past over outdoor advertisements showing models in skimpy swimsuits seen as immodest. Police chief Haim Abudess said he hoped to ease tensions at meeting Sunday.

### Turkey's first female governor appointed

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — The Turkish government appointed its first female governor Saturday, ending a decade-long ban against women serving in high positions in the civil service. Interior Minister Mustafa Kalemli said Hale Aytaman, a university professor, was appointed governor of the Aegean coastal province of Mugla. Turkish women have campaigned against the ban for a decade. Government officials had argued that women, if appointed governor, would not be physically capable of coping with the harsh geographical conditions of the country's remote regions. Authorities also apparently feared that women would not be accepted in remote, conservative areas of the nation.

### Iran determined to finish Bushehr plant

NICOSIA (R) — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani has said Iran is determined to complete the war-damaged Bushehr nuclear plant abandoned by German contractors. "We are determined to complete this major project and will do so with the help of God," the Iranian news agency IRNA Sunday quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as saying in a letter to the head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation Reza Amrollahi. German Economics Minister Juergen Moellmann said during a visit to Tehran in June that Germany would not help rebuild the plant bombed during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war. Mr. Amrollahi said Germany's refusal to complete the project in southern Iran "may weaken the morale of the experts of the (Iranian) atomic organisation who for many years have been looking forward to resumption of the work on the project," IRNA said. Iran has been pressing Germany to resume work on the project but Mr. Moellmann said his country would continue to follow a restrictive policy on exports of products with both civilian and military applications.

### Bulgarian trade minister in Tehran

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Bulgarian Foreign Trade Minister Atanas Paparizov arrived in Tehran Saturday to discuss bilateral trade relations, the Islamic Republic NewsAgency reported. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said he was received at Tehran's Mehrabad airport by Iranian Minister of Heavy Industries Hadi Nejad-Hosseini. Mr. Paparizov told reporters at the airport that he would discuss a possible agreement that would end banter trade between the two countries, and resume trade on a cash basis. He said Sofia would like to purchase Iranian-assembled cars and other non-oil products from Tehran.

### Iran air chief heads team to Soviet Union

NICOSIA (R) — The commander of the Iranian air force flew to Moscow Sunday for talks with Soviet defence officials. The national Iranian news agency IRNA said Brigadier General Mansour Sattari was heading a high-ranking military delegation on a week-long visit. "Sattari is to discuss bilateral cooperation in aviation and aerospace with his Soviet counterpart and other officials," IRNA said without giving details. It said the visit was at the invitation of the commander of the Soviet air force. Iran and the Soviet Union agreed on extensive cooperation in many fields, including defence and nuclear power, during a visit to Moscow by Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani in 1989. Iran has since bought Soviet combat aircraft to beat a U.S. ban on the sale of military equipment to Tehran. The air force took delivery of an unknown number of MiG-29 fighter planes from the Soviet Union last year. Tehran also wants to buy or lease civilian planes from the Soviet Union.

### Kuwaiti ambassador visits tank factory

LIMA, Ohio (AP) — The Kuwaiti ambassador to the United States toured a tank factory and praised its products but made no promises about purchasing any of them. Saud Nasir Al Sabah made his comments Friday after he toured the Lima army tank plant as part of a nationwide tour to thank Americans for their role in the Gulf war. Some workers had said they hoped the tank's success in the Gulf war would lead to more sales — particularly to Middle East nations. But Mr. Sabah, who praised the vehicle, declined to stay whether his nation would buy any of the tanks, built by General Dynamics Corp. "I think the M1-A1 tank was one of the most impressive weapons used in desert storm. Nothing compares with the M1-A1 around the world. If we are going for tanks, this is the machine to go for," he said. He said he is concerned that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is still in power, but that it is up to the Iraqi people to decide his fate.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

man 26, Aqaba 34. Humidity readings:  
Amman 60 per cent, Aqaba 34 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Khalid Mu'adi 743500  
Dr. Khalid Klob 826919  
Dr. Hussein Haddad 731267  
Dr. Tawfiq Qab' in 623029  
Firas pharmacy 661912  
Al Azma pharmacy 637055  
Naboukha pharmacy 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy 644945  
Shumaila pharmacy 637660

IRBID:  
Dr. Nabil Abul Ola 743500  
Al Shams pharmacy 275825

ZARQA:  
Dr. Samir Al Lawad 743500  
Khalifah pharmacy 985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111  
Civil Defence Department 651111  
Civil Defence Immediate  
Rescue 63041  
Civil Defence Emergency 199  
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade 891228  
Blood Bank 775121  
Highway Police 843402  
Traffic Police 806390  
Public Security Department 63021  
Hotel Complaints 625800  
Price Complaints 661176  
Water and Sewerage  
Complaints 897467  
Amman Municipality  
Complaints 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121  
Overseas Calls Telephone  
Central Amman Telephone  
Repairs 623101  
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101  
Jordan Television 773111  
Radio Jordan 774111  
Water Authority 681000  
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

### HOSPITALS

Electric Power Company 636381  
RJ Flight Information 08-53200  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
09:00 Senas (RJ)  
10:00 Damascus (RJ)  
10:15 Jeddah (RJ)  
10:15 Riyadh (RJ)  
10:30 Dhahran (RJ)  
10:30 Larnaca (RJ)  
10:45 Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
11:00 Beirut (RJ)  
11:30 Cairo (RJ)  
12:25 Bangkok (RJ)

### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
07:30 Beirut (RJ)  
11:00 Jeddah (RJ)  
12:30 Damascus (RJ)  
12:40 Moscow (RJ)  
13:15 Frankfurt (RJ)  
13:25 Cairo (RJ)  
14:00 Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
14:25 Dhahran (RJ)  
14:30 Larnaca (RJ)  
14:45 Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
15:00 Beirut (RJ)  
15:30 Bangkok (RJ)

### Other Carriers (Terminal 2)

12:30 Jeddah (add) (RJ)  
14:45 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)  
22:00 Paris (AF)



## Kabariti stresses role of tourism in national economy

AMMAN (Petra) — Tourism and Antiquities Minister Abdul Kabarti Sunday stressed the importance of developing the tourism sector as called for in the Royal letter of appointment to the government.

He said that the tourism sector was one of the most important economic and social sectors in view of its contribution to supporting the balance of payments and reducing the trade balance deficit.

At a meeting with owners of the tourist hotels in Jordan, held at the Philadelphia Hotel, Mr. Kabarti called for drawing up an integrated plan for tourism that takes into consideration tourist marketing mechanisms, timing and philosophy of marketing.

He emphasised the importance of internal tourism as a supplement to the Jordanian economy.

He also said that the ministry was ready to support investment projects in the area of tourism and to provide the facilities and infrastructure needed for carrying out such projects in a bid to attract the largest number of Jordanian investors.

He said that his ministry would set up a special fund with a capital of JD 4 million which will be used to grant loans to tourist facilities hardest hit by the Gulf crisis.

Mr. Kabarti emphasised the need for placing Jordan anew on the international tourist map and for giving priority to restoring traditional tourist markets in Germany, Italy and Great Britain.

Hotel owners agreed at the meeting to contact tour organisers to market Jordan abroad and encourage tourism. Hotel owners also agreed to coordinate efforts with Royal Jordanian (RJ) and the Tourism Ministry to prepare tourist programmes in countries where RJ operates.



**KING TALAL REMEMBERED:** Jordan Sunday marked the 20th anniversary of the death of King Talal I the Abdullah, father of His Majesty King Hussein and the eldest son of the late King Abdullah I the Hashemite Kingdom. On the occasion King Hussein visited the tomb of the late King Talal, read out Al Fatiha (the first sura of the Koran) and laid a wreath on the tomb. Also paying their respects were His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah bin Al

Hussein, other Royal family members, Sheriffs, the prime minister and Cabinet ministers, speakers and members of the Upper and Lower houses of Parliament, the Royal Court chief, senior Royal Court staff, the chief Islamic justice, Muslim ulamas, the Armed Forces chief of staff and senior officers, the acting mayor of Greater Amman and directors and senior officers from the Public Security, General Intelligence and Civil Defence departments.

## 'Lack of order led to decision to stop W. Bank tawjihi exams'

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education's decision Saturday to suspend tawjihi examinations in the West Bank schools was taken in view of lack of order in examination halls and interference by citizens in the examination process, the ministry's Secretary-General Munther Al Masri said Sunday.

Dr. Masri said the decision to resume the examination would be taken by the ministry's Examinations Committee in the West Bank. "Once a suitable educational climate that guarantees a sound course of examination prevails, the committee will decide to resume the examination," Dr. Masri told the Jordan Times.

According to Dr. Masri, between 10,000 to 12,000 students are sitting for the exams in the

West Bank. The students did not sit for the first semester examination session because the education process in the occupied territories was disrupted by closure of schools and curfews imposed by Israeli occupation authorities.

According to a study conducted by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Education Department in April, schools in the occupied territories have lost more than half of their class days because of military closure orders and curfews.

The study said that about 73 per cent of the lost school days in the territories were caused by military closure orders, 13.3 were caused by general strikes and the rest by curfews imposed by the occupation authorities or by

sit-ins staged by students and teachers at schools to mourn colleagues killed by Israeli soldiers or settlers.

Dr. Masri said if the examination suspension decision remains effective until September, the time Jordanian universities start admitting students, the Higher Education Ministry will discuss reserving the university seats assigned for West Bank students every year till the results are announced.

"In a previous similar case, in which the examination was delayed, the seats (for West Bank students) were reserved for the second semester upon a decision by the Higher Education Council which is chaired by the minister of higher education," Dr. Masri said.

## Minister visits Karak hospitals, pledges help

KARAK (J.T.) — The Ministry of Health has allocated JD 700,000 to lay the infrastructure of the new Karak hospital and the first phase of the project will soon get underway, according to Minister of Health Mamdouh Al Abbadi.

"The service offered by the existing hospitals in the city are far from satisfactory and cannot cater to the growing needs of Karak Governorate residents," the minister said in a statement during an inspection visit to Karak Sunday.

In remarks to Karak Governor Eid Qataneh, several Parliament members from the governorate and directors of various departments, Dr. Abbadi said that the Health Ministry had sufficient staff capable of dealing with the Karak Governorate's problems in terms of health services and medical equipment.

The Italian government had promised to finance the new hospital in Karak and plans were recently reported under way to prepare the ground for the project to start.

Of a \$107 million aid package, the Italian government last month signed with Jordan, a sum of \$55 million was allocated to help finance the Karak hospital project along with the restoration of the Jerash archaeological site and several other socio-economic development schemes in Jordan.

The minister listened to a briefing about the health services and met with doctors working at the Karak hospitals.

He was briefed on the shortage of specialists, orthopedists, ophthalmologists, ear, nose and throat specialists, assistant pharmacists, laboratory technicians, physiotherapists as well as medicine and medical equipment.

The minister promised to look into the issues and address them.

The doctors pointed out that the hospital lacked a first aid unit at a time when the need for such a service was growing every day.

Dr. Abbadi, accompanied by a number of officials, later visited the hospital in Ghor Al Safi.

The minister inspected health and medical services at the health centres and clinics in Tafleh. The Ministry of Health will give due care to these centres and supply them with their needs of various equipment and staff, Dr. Abbadi said in a statement during his tour.

The minister said that allocations of funds had been made for conducting maintenance work on the various centres in the Tafleh area.

He said that a special committee had been set up to take over the new Tafleh hospital so that it can supervise the provision of various equipment expected to cost JD 3 million.

## Jordanian, Iraqi dentists to meet

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian and Iraqi dentists association decided to hold their first joint scientific day in Baghdad by the end of November, according to President of the Jordanian Dentists Association Arafat Sultan. Dr. Sultan said he discussed

arrangements for holding the conference with Iraqi Dentists Association President Ghaleb Al Jasim in Amman Saturday.

The conference, he said, will host several Arab and foreign researchers and specialists in the field of dentistry.

## Jordan thanks U.N. head for efforts on behalf of Palestinians in Kuwait

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Sunday thanked U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar for his efforts that resulted in commuting the death sentences of Jordanian citizens in Kuwait and said the move was a very positive step in the right direction.

Jordan's appreciation was expressed by Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensour in a memorandum to the U.N. chief voicing the Kingdom's gratitude for his efforts which, he said, ended in commuting the death sentences to life imprisonment.

On June 26 the Emir of Kuwait

commuted all 29 death sentences issued by his country's martial law courts, changing them to life imprisonment.

The Kuwaiti ambassador to the United Nations, Mohammad Abdul-Hassan, informed Mr. De Cuellar of his country's decision, which, according to U.N. observers, came as a result of heavy international pressure on the emirate.

Martial law courts set up in Kuwait after the Gulf war ended in late February have sentenced to death 29 alleged collaborators with the Iraqis despite international protests. None of the death

## Chinese guests briefed on Jordanian women's involvement in socio-economic development

AMMAN (Petra) — The wife of the visiting Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng Sunday visited the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) in Amman and was briefed by its Deputy Director Thihni Raafat on the foundation's activities and projects to involve Jordanian women in socio-economic development in the Kingdom.

The distinguished guest also visited the Puppet Theatre and the National Music Conservatory as well as the Traditional Hand-

icraft Centre.

During a visit to the Jordan Design and Trade Centre, the Chinese first lady inspected various items on display and discussed the prospect of exchanging Chinese and Jordanian expertise in handicraft work. Discussion also touched on the possibility of China's financing the establishment of a factory to produce cloth and thread used in the manufacture of handicrafts and traditional products.

The wife of the Chinese presi-

dent, Zhu Lin, Saturday met with Her Majesty Queen Noor and discussed venues of cooperation between NHF and similar institutions in China.

The discussion focused on ways the NHF can benefit from Chinese expertise at the National Music Conservatory, the Design and Trade Centre and the Puppet Theatre.

The wives of the Chinese president and foreign minister Sunday visited Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, chairperson of the

Board of Trustees of the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF), and discussed the fund's activities.

The Princess reviewed the fund's plans which are primarily aimed at improving the standard of women in the rural regions and boosting services for children through cooperation with voluntary organisations.

The two sides exchanged views about Chinese and Jordanian experiments in social and voluntary work.

## Maritime company briefs Suheimat on activity, plans

AMMAN (J.T.) — Arab Maritime Bridge Company (AMBC) board members Sunday briefed Deputy Prime Minister and Transport Minister Ali Suheimat on the company's situation and its efforts to promote transport between Asian and African-Arab countries.

The company is a joint venture owned equally by Iraq, Jordan and Egypt and operates the sea land route linking Aqaba to Nweibeh in Sinai.

The company, established in 1988, operates ferry boats transporting passengers and vehicles as well as various types of goods between the two sides. At the meeting, the board members talked in detail about the company's future plans for expansion and modernisation.

Jordan, Egypt, and Iraq are members of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) which also includes Yemen.

The port of Aqaba had witnessed increased activity over the past several years up to the outbreak of the Gulf crisis.

According to Director of Jordanian Ports Corporation (JPC) Ahmad Fawzi Abu Nowar,

a special team that has been preparing a detailed study on the Aqaba Port and its operations was expected to finalise its work later this week.

The study covers the port's present and future needs and expansion plans, according to Mr. Abu Nowar.

Mr. Abu Nowar is a member of a special committee set up by Mr. Suheimat to conduct a study on the traffic through the port. Mr. Abu Nowar was quoted by Al Ra'i daily Sunday as saying that the port operations could be boosted to increase its annual revenue to JD 400 million in hard currency, most of which will be paid by cargo vessels docking at the port.

The port's present capacity, he said, is nearly 20 million tonnes of goods annually. He said revenues also come from transit operations, largely Iraqi imports, noting that Iraq, which depended on the Aqaba Port during its eight-year war with Iran, was expected to rely more on Aqaba for its export-import operations once the present embargo has been lifted.



**CHINESE PREMIER TOURS DEAD SEA:** Visiting Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng Sunday visited the Dead Sea and inspected the Dead Sea Hotel and its adjacent mineral water spa which offers therapeutic treatment. Mr. Li was accompanied by his wife and Chinese and Jordanian officials. Following the visit, Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qun said in a statement that the two countries could initiate cooperation in tourism. "Jordan is rich with natural tourist sites, like the Dead Sea, and archaeological places, like Petra and Jerash, and the Kingdom enjoys excellent climate for sightseeing," the foreign minister said. He expressed hope that the future would witness close cooperation between Jordan and China in tourism.

## JPPNW honoured for activity during Gulf war

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Society of Jordanian Doctors for the Prevention of Nuclear War (JPPNW) has been granted the Albert Schweitzer Award in appreciation of its efforts during the Gulf war.

A delegation representing JPPNW received the award in Stockholm where it was participating in the tenth conference of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW).

The Jordanian delegation, headed by Dr. Nabih Mu'ammir, has played a key role in making the conference adopt a resolution urging the United Nations to lift

the economic embargo imposed on Iraq since its Aug. 2, 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The delegation also hoped in the adoption of another resolution calling on the U.N. to implement resolutions 181, 242 and 338.

The IPPNW groups 300,000 doctors from 71 countries, including Jordan. It is advocating the destruction of all nuclear and other mass destruction weapons.

Taking part in the conference were 3,000 doctors. The JPPNW delegation to the conference included Dr. Mahmoud Al Huneidi, Dr. Hassan Badran, Dr. Samir Samawi and Dr. Mahmoud Al Taher.

## NAF benefits 16,086 families

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the National Aid Fund (NAF) Farouq Badran said Sunday the number of families which benefited from NAF's services during the first half of the current year reached 16,086.

These families, Dr. Badran said, received a total of JD 1,952,704 in the form of recurrent aid and JD 12,480 as emergency aid. Dr. Badran added that 431 other families benefited from NAF rehabilitation projects.

## Society urges the public to give more consideration to the environment

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Society for the Control of Environment Pollution Sunday urged the public to give more serious consideration to environmental issues and demanded further educational programmes to spread awareness among the public about matters related to the protection of the environment.

Society President Ahmad Obeidat said that urgent action should be taken to protect the scarce water resources and the soil from pollution.

"Several adverse social and economic practices are causing severe consequences to the environment in Jordan and the time has come to define those re-

sponsible for this situation in a bid to prevent further deterioration," Mr. Obeidat said in an address at the opening of a workshop entitled "The Environment and the Role of Jordanian Women in its Protection."

The workshop, organised by the society in cooperation with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation of Germany, is attended by 40 women representing various public and private institutions concerned with women's activities and the environment in Jordan.

Several working papers dealing with different aspects of environment, pollution and protection of the soil are to be reviewed by the two-day workshop.

The Friedrich Naumann

Foundation representative at the opening session said the world was loading the environment with various types of pollutants and exhausting its resources, causing a climate change. He said that industrial development was harming nature and the poisonous waste was causing severe damage to soil, water and the atmosphere.

The official appealed to the farmers to introduce changes in their style of work and to refrain from excessive use of chemicals.

A working paper submitted by Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment official Sufian Al Tal demanded that

the government speed up work on the environment strategy to help deal with pollution issues.

The paper noted that the scarce amounts of drinking water in Jordan were being endangered by pollutants which also contaminate the air and the soil.

Dr. Tal referred in his paper to the pollution caused to the atmosphere by the loading of phosphate at Aqaba and by the mining and the other industries.

The role of women in helping protect the environment in Jordan, safe use of drugs and means to provide protection to the wildlife reserves will also be discussed at the workshop.

## Haidar Al Amareh Establishment for Agriculture and Trade

### Tender Announcement

Haidar Al Amareh Establishment for Agriculture and Trade wishes to buy 300 first-time pregnant cows, in accordance with the following terms:

- ★ Cows should be 6-7 months pregnant upon selection.
- ★ Production of mother cow should not be less than 5000 kgs of milk during the first season.
- ★ Pregnant cow should weigh no less than 500 kilograms upon selection.
- ★ Insurance period should be one month following the arrival of first-time pregnant cows to the farm, provided that insurance coverage be as follows:
  - 100% against death, 50% against miscarriage, and 100% against any bone fracture upon arrival at the farm, provided that meat price be credited to the insurance company.

Bidders can send in their bids as of today and until July 28, 1991 to the offices of Haidar Al Amareh Establishment for Agriculture and Trade in Zarqa, Amman-Zarqa old road, near the Royal Jordanian, Fax 934774, Tel. 934842, 938342, Telex Tiljarah Jo 41420, P.O. Box 7070.

## WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition of paintings and sculptures by Shawqi Shoukail, Mohammad Al Jalous and Rifqi Al Razzaq at Abdul Hameed Shoukail Foundation 10 a.m. — 5 p.m.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Maher Al Shmairi at Alka Art Gallery, Insurance Building, 1st Circle.
- ★ Ceramics exhibition by Margaret Tadros and Najwa Annab at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Embroidery exhibition at Jordan Intercontinental Hotel.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Maysoon Sawalha, Basma Silawi and Youssef Al Bis at Yarmouk University.
- ★ Art exhibition by Khalid Masri at the Royal Cultural Centre.

### FILMS

- ★ French film entitled "Trois Hommes a Abbeville" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.



Muscat-based Publ Graphics Advertising Network, one of the largest advertising firms in the Arab World, has joined hands with Advertising Company SAOC (ADINC), a newly established firm. Saad Bahwan, an official of ADINC, said the partnership with Publ Graphics would not only assist ADINC in providing international quality advertising and marketing support solutions to advertisers in Oman, but would also be of tremendous help to Omani producers wanting to export to other countries in the Arab World. Fidaa Bakawi, the regional director of Publ Graphics, said his company was extremely happy to be associating itself with the Oman's prominent business houses like the Zawawi, Bahwan, Mostafa & Jawad and others that are associated with ADINC.

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## Announcement for Central Tender No (75/91) Concerning Ma'an Telecommunications Project

The Government Tenders Directorate of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan announces the above mentioned tender for the implementation of telecommunications project which tends to improve the telephone services in Ma'an area. The project consists of the following:

- CATEGORY-I-**
- a) Supply and installation of (one) digital main switch
  - b) Supply and installation of (two) switching nodes, including environmental equipment and power plants.

- CATEGORY-II-**
- Supply and installation of digital transmission equipment. The Telecommunications Corporation of Jordan (TCC) is the responsible organisation for the implementation of this project. Interested tenderers specialised in the field of telecommunications are invited to purchase tender documents from:-

Government Tenders Directorate,  
Ministry of Public Works and Housing  
P.O.Box (1220)  
Amman-Jordan  
Telex 21944  
Fax 684 759

Starting on Saturday, July 6, 1991, against a non-refundable price of JD 250. Last date for purchase of tender documents shall be on July 31, 1991. The tender, accompanied by a tender security, should be delivered, by post or otherwise, to reach the Government Tenders Directorate not later than 12:00 noon on Tuesday, October 1, 1991. The tenders shall be opened in the presence of tenderers representatives who may choose to attend, at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 1, 1991.

Chairman, Central Tenders Committee,  
Eng. Basheer Al Jaghbeer







## Jordan, China to boost relations

(Continued from page 1)

automatically renewed unless either party decides otherwise, the minister noted.

In a statement to Petra, Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qun expressed China's deep appreciation of the efforts exerted by His Majesty King Hussein to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem.

Mr. Qian described the latest talks with Jordanian officials as fruitful and said that the two sides exchanged views on Middle East issues and found that they hold identical views.

The minister said that China support the convening of an international conference to find a just solution for the Palestinian problem and to enable the Palestinians to regain their rights in their homeland in implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The minister said international efforts should be exerted to force Israel to adopt a flexible stand with regard to peace.

Israel's settlement policy does not help the peace process and it places obstacles in the path of achieving peace, he said.

A joint statement issued at the end of the Chinese premier's visit summed up the various topics discussed and said that the two sides reviewed means to boost cooperation in cultural, economic and trade fields.

The talks, which were held in an atmosphere characterised by friendship, revealed that the two sides held identical views. The two sides underlined the importance of attaining a just and lasting settlement of the Middle East problem through an international

peace conference to be held under U.N. auspices for the implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338," the statement said.

"The two sides are in agreement that Israel's policy of building settlements in the occupied territories and settling Jewish immigrants is illegal and obstructing peace. They called on the international community to help restore the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination," it said.

"The two sides agreed on the need to remove all types of mass destruction weapons and to eliminate all nuclear, biological and chemical weapons that may exist in all countries of the region," the statement said.

"The two sides agreed that the new world order should provide for the respect of territorial integrity of all countries and should uphold the principles of non-aggression, non-interference in internal affairs of other countries and coexistence as well as the principle of settling all international disputes through peaceful means and in conformity with the principles and the charter of the United Nations and international law," it added.

"Jordan expressed its appreciation of China's support for Arab causes and China's constructive role, through the United Nations, with regard to Arab causes. China lauded King Hussein's efforts to promote the cause of world peace and security," it said.

The King accepted an invitation extended by Mr. Li to visit China. According to the statement, a date for the visit will be fixed later.

## In West Bank village, daily life is bleak

The following article is reprinted from the Guardian, a radical New York-based newsweekly.

By Beth Goldring

**RAFAAT, Occupied West Bank** — Many of the most important events taking place in the Israeli-occupied territories in the post-Gulf war period are unfolding without much apparent drama. Massive land confiscation, settlement-building and unemployment are dramatic events in themselves, but the way they enter people's lives is in the form of loss and absence of meaningful activity.

Unemployed people have time to spare. Palestinians show their lost land from a distance, wait for their surveyor to obtain permission to measure it for the court case and tell you what happened last week when someone tried to enter the land. But nothing much seems to be happening. The visitor's strongest sense is of a reality lived in suspension, of people's powerlessness over processes that destroy their lives.

The official Israeli presence in a remote village like Rafaat does not normally take the form of soldiers, raids, restrictions and harassments, although these also exist. The occupation is there in the form of larger restrictions strangling the village economically and socially. During the Gulf war this strangulation resulted in what Bir Zeit University Professor Rita Giacaman called "astronomical" death and infant mortality rates: eight people, five of them under a year old, in one month in a community of 1,500. Since the war some restrictions have been eased, but the combined forces of land confiscation and unemployment, on top of pre-existing hardships and poverty, make the village's future hard to imagine.

Rafaat is an ancient village set high in the hills outside Nablus. The location is stunningly beautiful, overlooking mountains and the coastal plain. The air is pure enough that changes in the light register constantly. Although the village has been Muslim for many centuries there are ruins of an old baptismal font from its Christian past, and even older Roman ruins.

Like most West Bank villages, Rafaat has a centre of old, continuously inhabited houses, in this case at the very top of the village, supplemented by more modern buildings around them. Unlike villages where income from families working in the United States or the Gulf has provided elaborate houses or luxuries, construction in Rafaat has remained fairly simple. The differences between rich and poor are not very great here.

Modernity is not far away. At night the lights from Natanya, inside Israel, sparkle in the distance. Electricity lines to Jewish settlements run along the one paved road that passes the village (there are a few unpaved streets in the village but most houses are reached by foot). The electricity lines do not enter Rafaat. What little electrical power villagers have each evening comes from generators shared by about six families each. There is no refrigeration.

Rafaat was never connected to the Israeli water system. There are wells in many homes and others that are used collectively. When the wells dry up, villagers have to purchase water from



Olive trees have become symbols of resistance to occupation.

Trees that soldiers recently uprooted from the village of

Rafaat have been replanted in an Israeli settlement.

tanks, which can be expensive. The village clinic has been closed for several years, but there is a doctor living in the village.

Like many highland villages Rafaat is unable to support its people by agriculture. The main crop is the biannual olive harvest. There are also fig trees, and corn and wheat are planted. Aqoub, a thistle-like vegetable eaten mainly by poor people in the Nablus region, grows wild. There are some sheep, goats, chickens and cows.

Rafaat residents traditionally own about 9,000 dunums of land (one dunum equals a quarter-acre), half of which are in the process of being confiscated. These seizures represent Israel's third attempt to confiscate the land. In 1984-5 such a push was defeated in the Israeli High Court. Since the Gulf war, the area has been declared state land (a designation usually applied to property that is either uncultivated or to which no one possesses ownership documents).

Harvest of bitter fruit

Since the confiscation was announced this spring, the land has been closed off and used for military training. A camp was put on some 40-50 dunums and local people were prohibited from entering the rest. In March, when three young men from poor families went to gather aqoub on the

land, soldiers beat them, tore their clothing and sent them home. A surveyor trying to fight the confiscation is attempting to obtain permission to survey the land.

The Israelis removed some 2,000 1-year-old trees from the land in mid-April. A week later 10 trucks returned and took away about 200 6- and 7-year-old trees (trees removed in this fashion, especially mature trees, are often replanted in the settlements).

Before the Gulf war the basic income upon which the village depended came from the 200 men who worked inside Israel. Despite differences in educational backgrounds and other abilities, virtually all of them worked in construction or agriculture.

An orange harvester might be paid \$6.50 to \$7 for packing a 340-pound box. This was half the wage paid to the labour contractors for their work. A skilled and strong worker might pack three to four boxes a day. Wages for construction work varied from \$22.5 to \$30 a day, depending on skill.

"Since the Gulf war only 10 men from Rafaat are still working in Israel, and even they do not work every day. Sometimes they are given work permits for a limited period; sometimes they go to the checkpoint and soldiers line them up and beat them, despite their having permits to

enter Israel to work; and sometimes there is no work. One worker who has laboured in the same orange groves since 1967 have neither been permitted to return to his job nor been paid compensation for losing it. His salary was \$20 a day, while Jewish workers in the same orange groves whom he supervised, and who had been there much less time, were paid twice as much.

At the household level this loss of income is partially cushioned by the subsistence-level provision of olives, oil, eggs and some flour from the land. But some families face absolute hardship. One family of 15 was being supported by a son who had worked irregularly in Israel for the past five years, since he quit school at 16. His father had previously worked in construction but was injured in a fall. Although the father had worked in the same place for 14 years and was 50 per cent disabled after the accident, he was given no disability pension, insurance or compensation, nor was his medical treatment covered. (This is a frequent pattern even though Palestinian workers regularly registered for work in Israel pay 40 per cent of their salaries for these and other benefits). Two other children in the family are severely disabled, unable to speak, walk or dress themselves.

Last year the family had to

spend almost \$250 on tanks of drinking water during the summer. Where they will find the money for water this summer is hard to imagine.

About 10 village families have members facing possible summary deportation for living in Rafaat without Israeli identity documents. This is a familiar problem in the occupied territories; members of extended families marry each other, and wives raised in Jordan or Kuwait return to live in the family's West Bank or Gaza village of origin. These wives live in the territories on visitor's permits, making repeated attempts to achieve legal residency through a process known as family reunification. But the applications are nearly always denied.

Women from the village who marry extended-family members living outside the territories cannot even apply for family reunification, but must move away to live with their husbands. Renewal of a visitor's permit is difficult and expensive, and many Palestinians simply remain in the villages on the expired documents.

Astronomical death rate

In 1989 the Israeli military began summary deportations of these "illegals." Some 250 women, children and elderly peo-

ple were deported before popular pressure forced a halt to the process. Despite promises to the contrary, many of those deported have not been permitted to return, and the danger of renewed expulsions persists.

The village has an elementary school, but children must go to the neighbouring town of Zawiya for preparatory school and further for high school. There is no formal transportation to and from the village. Residents pay a small amount to ride with people going outside for other errands. After 7:30 in the morning it is difficult to go anywhere except on foot or by donkey.

The result of these pressures can be seen in the village's mortality rate during the Gulf war curfew. Rita Giacaman translated Rafaat's eight deaths, including five infants, within a month to a general mortality rate of about 52 per 1,000 and an infant mortality rate of about 100 per 1,000. By contrast, according to the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, among 100,000 West Bank refugees living in camps, two children under a year old died between January and March 1991, a longer period within which the Gulf war curfew was contained.

No milk

Soldiers were not present in Rafaat for much of the curfew, but the prohibition effectively limited people to the village. Rafaat's fields are too far away for people to return home from work before soldiers found them and imposed fines of \$175, more than most villagers could afford.

The village ran out of milk quickly. It also ran out of rice, flour, sugar, cigarettes, eggs, vegetables and canned fish. At least two cows and 30 goats died for lack of fodder. And people, especially children, died, largely because medical care was inaccessible.

Since the end of the war the death rate has dropped. Life in the village appears normal; people work what land they can, and some of the unemployed have bought a few goats or sheep to raise. In the evenings people visit, watch television, drink tea.

But food is very simple and nobody has enough cigarettes. Palestinian men smoke, and families will cut back on many things in order for the men to have tobacco. The cigarette shortage is such a significant indicator of real shortages that families, to preserve their dignity, will make every effort to prevent visitors from seeing it.

Rafaat has not been a major centre of the intifada. Nobody has been killed or deported for an alleged role in the rebellion, and no homes have been demolished by the army. About 20 people have been imprisoned, several of them repeatedly, but the village has never been especially targeted for long curfews, sieges, raids or other collective punishment.

The bleak situation in Rafaat mirrors the larger crisis confronting the Palestinian community. The ability of its residents to sustain themselves has been severely compromised by the stringency of measures beyond their control. And these measures, which drastically undermine ordinary family life, reveal the nature of the occupation and Israeli intentions even more keenly than do the military actions taken to suppress the intifada.

## Naval siege cripples Aqaba

(Continued from page 1)

These moves are discouraging major companies from sailing to Aqaba while several international firms have said they would only resume their service once inspection are lifted.

Others, including the Red Sea Express, a consortium of four big European ship owners regularly serving Jordan's commerce with North America, Britain and Mediterranean ports, imposed an inspection

surcharge on July 1. Before the Gulf crisis, 70 per cent of cargo heading to Aqaba was for Iraq. Baghdad has resumed its imports of rice, sugar and wheat flour via Aqaba, but lack of foreign exchange to pay for more imports, is keeping transit business at Aqaba low.

The port, one of Jordan's main sources of income, in the past provided a net revenue of about JD 44 million a year.

The officials said allied moves were causing a shortage of raw materials badly needed by local industries and hampering Jordan's exports to new markets like the Soviet Union, Yemen and Libya after it lost its pre-war trade with Iraq, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states.

Prime Minister Taher Masri and Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensour last week discussed allied inspection with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas who promised to take the matter up with Paris allies, a government source said.

Diplomats say foreign ships are pressing for alternatives such as replacing U.S. search operations in the straits with Jordanian and U.N. inspectors checking goods either at Aqaba or on the Jordanian-Iraqi border.

"But this is a very delicate matter because it affects Jordanian sovereignty," one Western diplomat said. "I doubt the Jordanians would allow this to take place if similar moves are not taken in Syria, Iran and Turkey," he told Reuters.

## Israeli shot

(Continued from page 1)

role in the Middle East peace process, Mr. Brunner replied: "I don't know. I can tell you that at the end of my tour."

Israel, which regards the U.N. as biased against it, has rejected any role for the organisation in proposed peace talks.

Mr. Brunner will also visit Jordan, Egypt and Syria after three days in Israel. He is also to meet Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defence Minister Moshe Arens.

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar appointed Mr. Brunner, who is Swiss, in March, to give the U.N. a more active role in regional peace efforts after Israeli police killed at least 18 Palestinians in Jerusalem last October.

The last U.N. Middle East envoy, Gumar Jarrah, left in 1972. The post is mandated in U.N. Security Council Resolution 242. Israeli officials played down Mr. Brunner's visit. "This is no a major matter. It is almost routine," said foreign ministry official Yohanan Bein.

The European Community is also sending an envoy to Israel this week to discuss the permanent of a representative to distribute EC funds for Palestinians in the occupied territories.

## Serbs and Croats clash

(Continued from page 1)

come to the aid of Serbian fighters saying they were "at the end of their resistance."

Croatian leaders have expressed fears of a move by federal forces aimed at separating feuding Croats and Serbs. Ethnic Serbs make up about 11 per cent of Croatia's five million people.

There have been ethnic clashes almost daily in Croatia since the republic joined Slovenia in declaring independence on June 25. At least 43 people have been killed in ethnic fighting that began in May. That toll does not include Sunday's fighting.

In Briuni, EC mediators met with federal and Slovenian leaders to discuss who should control the "breakaway" republic's borders.

The talks were seen as crucial to easing the crisis created by Slovenia's independence declaration.

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## Financial Markets

In co-operation with  
Cairo Amman BankWeekly F.X. Market Summary  
(July 1-July 5, 1991)

THE DOLLAR rallied early last week to reach its highest levels in 20 months against the Deutsche mark. Despite a bout of profit-taking Wednesday, the dollar rallied further Thursday to reach its highest level of the week. A second round of profit-taking took place Friday, however, and the dollar closed at its lowest levels of the week, but higher than closing levels at the end of the previous week.

The dollar rose sharply against most major currencies Monday. Its rise was triggered by a higher than expected increase in the National Association of Purchasing Management index, which rose to (50.9%) in June. This was seen as a sign of expansion in U.S. manufacturing, thus reinforcing the current market view that the U.S. economy is coming out of recession and into sustainable growth. In spite of an earlier BOJ discount rate cut to (5.5%), the drop in the yen was muted as traders said that the cut had been anticipated by the market and was thus already discounted. The strong underlying economic fundamentals of the Japanese economy further supported the yen.

The dollar continued to rise Tuesday, helped on its way up by market speculation and the release of U.S. Factory Orders figures, which rose (2.9%) in May. The market was hampered by escalation of political turmoil in neighbouring Yugoslavia, coupled with the continued uncertainty over German investment regulations. Although the government had earlier announced that it was no longer considering introducing a withholding tax on investment earnings, it was, however, considering a relaxation of bank secrecy rules in an effort to contain tax evasion. Analysts said that such an action would spur capital flight out of Germany. Investors were hence seen to be staying out of the market until a clearer idea of government intentions can be developed.

Wednesday witnessed a drop in dollar rates particularly against EMS currencies. Traders said that

a natural bout of profit-taking on long dollar positions built during the week was taking place ahead of the 4th July holiday in the U.S. This was spurred even further by a drop of (3.5%) in May U.S. New Home Sales figures, while the market was expecting an increase of (2.3%), together with an earlier drop in U.S. stock prices. The U.S. currency's decline was halted, however, by an increase in corporate demand for the dollar at around (1.82) marks. Rumours of financial scandal in Japan and a drop in Japanese stock prices hurt the yen, causing its cross rate against the mark to rise to (76.28) yen, compared to Tuesday's close of (75.64) yen to the mark.

The dollar dropped slightly against the yen in Tokyo for fear of BOJ intervention around (140) yen Thursday. It rose to its highest level of the week against EMS currencies, however, closing in Tokyo at (1.8375) marks, (139.40) yen, and at (1.6030) dollars to the sterling pound. It maintained these levels during European trading, while no trading took place in New York, as U.S. traders were on official holiday.

While the dollar rose to reach (1.8475) marks in Tokyo Friday, it soon fell back below (1.8400) marks, and fell further in New York at the release of U.S. employment figures. Unemployment rose to (7%) in June, as non-farm payrolls dropped by (50,000), compared to expectations of a rise of (11,000). The dollar dropped to close at its lowest levels of the week as a result of these figures, despite a revision of May's non-farm payroll figures, which showed an increase of (119,000), compared to the increase of (59,000) released earlier.

Expectations of the direction of dollar exchange rates in the week ahead are mixed. While the majority of observers remain bullish, some observers began to question the strength of the expected U.S. economic recovery, and its implications to further dollar strength, as a result of June's employment figures.

## New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	28/6/1991 Close	5/7/1991 Close	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.6220	1.6155	- 0.40%
Deutsche Mark	1.8105	1.8253	- 0.80%
Swiss Franc	1.5525	1.5747	- 1.40%
French Franc	6.1360	6.1855	- 0.80%
Japanese Yen	137.45	138.35	- 0.65%

USD Per 100

## Euro-Currency Interest Rates

Currency	28/6/1991 1-Month (%)	5/7/1991 1-Month (%)	28/6/1991 3-Month (%)	5/7/1991 3-Month (%)
U.S. Dollar	5.87	6.81	5.93	6.75
Sterling Pound	11.56	10.93	11.31	10.56
Deutsche Mark	8.87	9.25	8.61	9.31
Swiss Franc	7.93	7.68	7.87	7.81
French Franc	9.62	9.62	9.62	9.62
Japanese Yen	7.93	7.53	7.40	7.34

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

## Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.688	.690
Sterling Pound	1.1110	1.1166
Deutsche Mark	.3761	.3760
Swiss Franc	.4363	.4385
French Franc	.1111	.1117
Japanese Yen*	.4968	.4993
Dutch Guilder	.3344	.3361
Swedish Krona	.1039	.1044
Italian Lira*	.0506	.0509
Belgian Franc	.01831	.01840

\* Per 100

## World spends \$1 trillion a year on military

WASHINGTON (AP) — The world spends more than \$1 trillion a year on military troops and hardware, according to a World Bank report released Sunday.

"Governments need to take every possible step to reduce military expenditures," the report on world development says.

In the late 1980s, it says, military spending totalled \$860 billion a year for high-income countries and \$170 billion for developing nations.

"If global military expenditures were reduced, the world would undoubtedly be a better place," the report says, but it notes that conflicts putting pressure on governments to build up their militaries continue in the Gulf, Afghanistan, Angola, Central America and Indochina, with civil wars in Ethiopia, Mozambique, Somalia and Sudan.

The report cites Costa Rica as an example of a country which has decided to reduce military spending in favour of more support for health and education.

"Many countries have to deal with bigger internal and external threats than those facing Costa Rica," the report says, adding, "even so, these threats hardly justify the sums being spent today on armed might."

The bank, which is the biggest lender to developing countries, said aid and finance agencies have the right to ask "whether it makes sense to help governments whose first priority is not to develop but to add to their military strength."

## Hashimoto cautions over greater Japan aid from taxes

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto reacted with caution to reported remarks by Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama that Japan should increase its financial and other contributions to the world.

Mr. Nakayama reportedly suggested that Japan raise its official development assistance (ODA) to one per cent of gross national product (GNP) in the future.

"I doubt if international cooperation based on the GNP ratio is realistic... that may end up with covering requests for aid that are not fully convincing," Mr. Hashimoto told reporters.

Japan's ODA totalled 0.32 per cent of its GNP in calendar 1989, against an average 0.51 per cent for all members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), excluding Japan and the United States, foreign ministry data shows.

Mr. Nakayama was quoted by Japanese media as saying that the introduction of new taxes might be one way to finance greater ODA and other aid.

Foreign ministry officials could not confirm Mr. Nakayama's remarks but said there were some ideas of increasing Japan's financial and personal contributions.

"The minister apparently jumped the gun. This kind of issue involving the budget must be discussed with other ministries in advance," one said.

## Luxembourg court to deal further blow to scandal-hit BCCI today

LUXEMBOURG (R) — A court will place the Luxembourg-based Bank of Credit and Commerce International S.A. (BCCI) in the hands of appointed liquidators Monday to unravel the affairs of the scandal-hit financial institution.

The court of justice's move, called "controlled administration," is the latest in an unprecedented wave of legal action to freeze the bank's estimated \$20 billion in assets in almost 70 countries amid allegations of fraud.

Pierre Jaans, director of Luxembourg's monetary institute, told a news conference Saturday of the impending legal action.

He said the bank had been on the verge of collapse when authorities swooped Friday. There was evidence of organised fraud linked to huge losses, he said. Financial authorities in 14 countries, including Britain, Japan, Germany and the United States, effectively shut down BCCI's activities in an unprecedented action.

Mr. Jaans said the bank, hit by another scandal involving laundering drug money last year, had posted a "huge operating loss" for 1990, which had not been made public.

"It had to take up loans to cover (the loss)... the bank probably has no capital left," he said. "By next week, it would not have had a future either in Luxembourg or Britain."

BCCI had planned to move its headquarters from Luxembourg to London by the end of this year. Routine investigations linked with the reorganisation of the

bank's structure had revealed the disastrous state of its finances, Mr. Jaans said.

So far, BCCI officials have kept silent. "There will be no comment from us," said one bank official in Luxembourg.

Robin Leigh-Pemberton, governor of the Bank of England, said Friday the fraud arose from attempts by senior executives to conceal losses from BCCI's lending and treasury operations.

The bank's deposits have been frozen as part of a coordinated attempt to secure the assets of BCC group, parent company of BCCI.

Since last year the bank has been 77 per cent owned by Abu Dhabi interests, mainly by the family of Abu Dhabi ruler and president of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Sheikh Zaid Ben Sultan Al Nahayan. It was founded in 1972 by Pakistani banker Agha Hassan Abedi, who underwent heart surgery three years ago.

Gulf bankers say Abu Dhabi may face huge costs to save its reputation and prevent depositor panic following the shutdown.

There was a taste of that Sunday when hundreds of people besieged BCCI branches in Pakistan to withdraw their savings, despite pledges their money was safe.

Armed police were posted outside the main branch in Karachi to control 400 customers demanding their money.

'Jewish conspiracy'

"There is a lot of confusion," said engineer Hasan Akhtar as bank officials tried to calm agitated customers.

Customers in Karachi and Rawalpindi accused Western central banks of conspiring to close the bank down.

"It is a huge Jewish conspiracy," said one woman whose husband works in Riyadh. "The Jews backed by Americans don't want to see a Muslim bank flourish."

Pakistan's State Bank (SBP) said BCCI's Pakistani operation could continue.

An aide to Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz said the bank should have no problem coping with the rush of withdrawals.

"I don't think they are facing any problem," special assistant Aaleem Mahmood said. "Normal banking business is being carried out and they have ample reserves."

BCCI's country treasury manager Khalil Hasan said it had met almost every demand.

Notices in the Karachi branch said: "As per instructions of the SBP we are not allowed to pay more than 100,000 rupees (\$4,000) from each account."

Customers were told they needed to get a "no-objection certificate" for each withdrawal from the state bank and a temporary ban was imposed on repaying fixed deposits before maturity.

"The bank has about one billion rupees (\$40 million) in inter-banking market in addition to its statutory balance with the State Bank of Pakistan," Mr. Hasan said.

Dhaka appoints auditors

In Bangladesh, the central bank ordered BCCI to stop business immediately and appointed auditors to check its assets and

liabilities. Bangladesh Bank, the country's central bank, issued the order Saturday night after BCCI headquarters in Abu Dhabi advised it to suspend the bank's operations.

The central bank asked all Bangladeshi banks to stop transacting business with overseas branches of BCCI.

BCCI has three branches in Bangladesh employing 347 staff. A bank source said it had deposits equivalent to \$15 million in Bangladesh.

Worried depositors found the bank shut when they tried to withdraw their money. The central bank said it would allow a maximum withdrawal of 60,000 taka (\$1,670) from each account after the assessment was complete.

Business as usual in Hong Kong

In Hong Kong, the banking watchdog said in a statement the Bank of Credit and Commerce Hong Kong Ltd (BCHHK) would continue business as usual.

"There is no evidence here of the suspected fraud which has led to the difficulties in the rest of the BCC group," commissioner of banking David Carse said.

Mr. Carse has sent a representative, J.R. Aspdon, to Abu Dhabi to meet government officials there Monday to decide the future of the bank, a government spokesman said. The Abu Dhabi government is the ultimate majority owner of BCCI.

The office of the Hong Kong government's exchange fund has said it will place funds with BCHHK on normal commercial

terms if necessary, the spokesman said.

BCHHK's regional manager Tariq Jamil said business on Saturday was "as close to normal as it can be" and there was no rush on the bank's 30 branches in the territory.

The government has also appointed two representatives of the banking watchdog to act as advisers to BCHHK's management.

Spain revokes licence

In Spain, the government decided Friday to revoke the banking licence of BCCI and put the bank's operations there into liquidation.

In London, British court-appointed liquidators moved over the weekend to try to sort out BCCI's finances, but warned that it was a complex task and could take time.

Luxembourg had suggested BCCI move to London, since many of its worldwide activities are conducted from there. The bank had agreed to do so by the end of this year.

Mr. Jaans said the problems might have remained hidden if BCCI had decided to stay in Luxembourg, which has tight banking secrecy laws. "It was due to pure chance that this scandal was uncovered," he said.

He declined to say how much the bank had lost last year. The authorities had decided to step in to protect shareholders and creditors from BCCI's imminent collapse.

The Luxembourg institute notified central banks in other countries of the move Friday.

## Study predicts big fall in Australian wool output

LONDON (AP) — Depressed prices and poor consumption prospects will force Australian farmers to cut back wool production sharply over the coming five years, according to a new study of the market.

The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) forecast that Australian production — which hit a record 723,000 tonnes in the 1989-90 (July-June) season — will be down to 500,000 in 1995-96.

Record world production, falling Chinese imports and rising stocks have halved wool prices over the past three years, said the EIU, a private business information company.

Chinese imports slumped last year to 62,000 tonnes from a peak of 188,000 in 1988 and are expected to recover only slowly to

reach 162,000 tonnes in 1995, according to the EIU.

The company is forecasting a gradual reduction in Soviet imports in the 1990s, because of hard currency shortages, and is "not optimistic" about consumption prospects elsewhere.

Purchases by the Soviet Union, which traditionally account for about 10 per cent of global imports, are forecast to fall to 120,000 tonnes in 1995, indicating from 130,000 in 1990.

Globally wool consumption is forecast to increase by under two per cent a year between 1990 and 1995 indicating a loss of its share of the total fibre market.

"The main adjustment needed to restore balance of the market will therefore have to come on

the production side... and it will come principally from Australia," the EIU said.

Australia is the world's biggest producer of wool, which generates about 10 per cent of the country's export revenue and vies with coal as the biggest earner.

The Australian Wool Corporation cut the price it guarantees to wool growers by 20 per cent last year — the first reduction since the introduction of the minimum price support scheme to 16-year ago.

Any new support price for the 1991-92 season could be fixed as

low as 450 Australian cents per kilogramme, compared with 870 cents before last year's cut, the EIU said.

The company forecasts little change in the combined wool output of Argentina, Uruguay and South Africa, but forecasts a rise in New Zealand production from 225,000 tonnes in 1990-91 to 260,000 in 1995-96.

Argentine production is forecast at 85,000 tonnes in 1995-96 (95,000 estimated for 1990-91), Uruguay at 75,000 (69,000) and South African 53,500 (51,000).



Theo Waigel

## 'Dollar is psychologically overvalued'

DRESDEN, Germany (R) — German Finance Minister Theo Waigel said Saturday the U.S. dollar was psychologically overvalued.

Mr. Waigel said the current rate of 1.84 marks to the dollar did not reflect the healthy fundamentals of Germany's economy and its financial policies.

"It is also due to the expectation in the United States that the recession will be overcome," he told journalists.

Swiss Finance Minister Otto Stich also said he felt the dollar was overvalued.

Mr. Waigel said he was convinced the mark would strengthen once the government's budget plans made it clear that Bonn's financial policies were under control.

Bonn officials said Friday the government planned to cut the federal deficit by a quarter to 50 billion marks (\$27 billion) in next year's budget, due to be approved by the cabinet Wednesday.

The budget draft foresees federal government borrowing of 49.7 billion marks, down from 66.4 billion marks this year, despite higher expenditure, the officials said.

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## Mandela, calling for continued sanctions, urges ANC flexibility

DURBAN, South Africa (AP) — Nelson Mandela, the newly-elected president of the African National Congress (ANC), said Sunday that international sanctions against South Africa should continue.

But he also said the ANC must show "flexibility and imagination" in its sanctions policy.

Mr. Mandela spoke after the ANC elected a hardline governing body and reaffirmed its boycott of constitutional talks with the government in a meeting that ended early Sunday.

Winnie Mandela, Nelson's controversial wife, and Communist Party leader Joe Slovo were among the 50 members chosen Saturday by secret ballot to the National Executive Committee.

Hardliners such as Chris Hani, leader of the ANC's armed wing, and Harry Gwala, a militant Communist, were among the top vote-getters. In total, 30 winners belong or have strong ties to the Communist Party.

The choices indicated the 2,000 delegates sought headline repre-

sation on the Executive Committee after electing Mandela and Walter Sisulu, considered moderates, to the two top leadership posts.

The moderates favour negotiations with the white-led government on forging a non-racial constitution that would give voting rights to the black majority. Hardliners distrust President F.W. de Klerk's governing National Party and fear negotiations would require too many concessions.

In his closing address, delivered as dawn approached Sunday after a marathon session, Mr. Mandela called for negotiations as part of the struggle for equal rights.

He said the conference endorsed continued international sanctions against South Africa, mass actions such as protests and strikes, and urgent efforts to align with other opposition groups against the government.

"There still remains enormous differences... about the nature of changes that have to occur," he

said.

Mr. Mandela also repeated the ANC's demand for an interim government to rule during the transition to a democratic government.

The decision to continue the boycott of constitutional talks suggested the strong support for Mr. Mandela and other moderates has not changed the ANC's basic demands. Those include an end to black township unrest and the release of all political prisoners.

The anti-apartheid group halted the talks with the government in May to protest the continuing clashes between political factions in black townships. The talks are aimed at ending white-minority rule by writing a new constitution that would empower blacks.

The ANC has accused the government of siding with its bitter rival, the Inkatha Freedom Party, in battles that have killed more than 6,000 blacks since 1986. It vowed to shun the constitutional talks until it was satisfied the

government had done everything possible to end the violence.

A conference resolution accused the government of delaying progress on the talks to end white-minority rule. It also urged the ANC to work out its disputes with the government.

"We must ensure the transfer of power to the people is a peaceful one," Mr. Mandela said in his closing remarks.

But his call for continued mass action and a conference on the ANC armed wing reflected the grassroots militancy of the organisation. He said the proposed conference on the armed wing would discuss the ANC's decision last August to suspend its ineffective armed struggle as a concession in peace talks.

Another obstacle involves political prisoners. The government says all political prisoners have been freed except those who might be dangerous to society.

The ANC says more than 900 remain unjustly behind bars and it wants them released before negotiations can begin.

## Barricades still divide Slovenian town

MARIBOR, Yugoslavia (R) — Workers across rebel Slovenia rushed to guard barricades when Yugoslavia's federal army sent in tanks to crush the republic's independence bid 10 days ago.

But at Maribor's Boris Kidric ironworks, they stayed at their posts. Someone, after all, had to build the barricades in the first place.

On Saturday, after a week and a half of day-and-night work by up to 200 men, they finally finished the job.

"I can't tell you how many we've made, but we should have enough," said a works manager who wished to remain anonymous.

"If we need to, we can always make some more."

Set on the outskirts of Slovenia's second city, the Boris Kidric works normally produces rolling stock for the Yugoslav National Railways.

But the Slovenian government and territorial army were quick to get it working for the cause of an independent Slovenia when fighting flared.

Its new product, made from railway lines welded together to form a tank-proof barricade, is on display at junctions across town and at checkpoints on the road to the Austrian border.

In the town itself the barricades are often the only sign that anything unusual has occurred to disturb the Slovenian calm.

Although the European tourists who occasionally stop off on their way to the Yugoslav coast are still missing, the locals have returned to a semblance of normal life.

Cafes and ice-cream bars dotted around Maribor are doing good business. On the River Drava which flows through the town people were back out in their boats at the weekend.

One of the few places in Maribor where it's clear there is not actually peace in Slovenia, just a ceasefire, is at the town's Franc Rozman Barracks, where up to 1,000 soldiers of Yugoslav federal army are normally based.

The scene of mass desertions by up to 200 conscripts last week, it looks more like an urban prisoner-of-war camp than an army barracks.

A steady flow of parents arrive to visit their conscript sons, but the soldiers themselves never leave the compound.

In the meantime, the railway tracks blocking the streets around have become a permanent fixture.

"When the Slovenians want to move them, they will," said one officer. "They don't bother us."

## Guerrillas, former spies working together — Bonn

BONN (R) — Urban guerrillas from western Germany and their former protectors in now-vanished east Germany are still working together underground, the head of Bonn's counter-intelligence service said Sunday.

The Red Army Faction (RAF), which began its bombing campaign against the west German establishment in the early 1970s, may now have a hard core of only about 20 members, Eckhart Werthebach told German Radio in an interview.

But its militant brutality, combined with the professional skills of their former east German mentors, made the RAF even more threatening to democracy here than the over 2,000 neo-Nazis now active in the ex-Communist east, he said.

"There are indications that a link still exists," said Mr. Werthebach, president of the counter-intelligence service known as the Office of the Protection of the Constitution.

East Germany sheltered RAF members from Bonn for years with new identities and jobs in the Communist state, but many have been arrested since German unity last October stripped away this shield.

"We know all about the profes-

sionalism of the Stasi," he said, referring to agents of the former East Berlin Ministry for State Security or "Stasi."

"And we know all about the militancy and the brutal ways of the RAF. If logistical and other help is being given here, the RAF's potential to threaten us is increased."

Mr. Werthebach said lawyers for jailed RAF suspects were smuggling messages between leaders in prison and "commandos" living underground.

Several members were now questioning whether the RAF, which last struck in April by killing Detlef Rohwedder, head of a government agency privatising former east German enterprises, should suspend its attacks.

Mr. Werthebach said legal authorities were now studying what they could do about the RAF lawyers who helped keep this debate going by smuggling messages among the group's members.

The top counter-intelligence official repeated charges made in earlier interviews that the Soviet espionage agency KGB was trying to use former Stasi agents to build up a new spy network in united Germany.

## Column

### 'Racism is part of British way of life'

LONDON (R) — Racism is part of the British way of life, according to a new survey of blacks, whites and Asians. The study, carried out by national opinion polls, said 79 per cent of Afro-Caribbeans found Britain a "very" or "fairly" racist along with 56 per cent of Asians and 67 per cent of whites. The poll, published in the Independent On Sunday newspaper, said 75 per cent blacks thought ethnic minorities were unfairly treated by the police. More than 60 per cent of blacks believed employers discriminated in favour of whites, and 40 per cent of Asians and whites agreed. The poll, one of the most wide-ranging surveys of racial attitudes in Britain in nearly a decade, showed a widespread ignorance about the country's racial make-up. Many whites thought between five and 10 million black and Asian people lived in Britain. The true figure is nearer 2.6 million.

### Bangladesh woman student arrested for attacking invigilator

DHAKA (R) — A Bangladeshi woman student has been jailed for throwing her shoes at an invigilator after she was caught cheating during school final examinations. Police said Shikha Akhand, 19, was arrested at Homna Examination Centre south east of Dhaka last week. Officials said Akhand became furious when the invigilator expelled her for copying from textbooks. "She has been sent to jail and her parents have applied for bail," an official said.

### Man escapes injury after bungee cord snaps

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — A New Zealand tourist escaped serious injury Sunday when a bungee jumping cord snapped while he was bungee jumping from a platform, sending him plummeting into a lake. Scott Fitzgerald, 22, was bungee-jumping from a tower at the cable Ski World Theme Park at Runaway Bay, 50 miles (80 kilometres) south of Brisbane, when the cable around his feet snapped and he fell, police said. Mr. Fitzgerald was pulled from the lake by friends. He had been bungee-jumping for the first time. A police spokesman said it was not known how far Mr. Fitzgerald fell. The operators of the theme park refused to comment. The Gold Coast Hospital at Southport said Mr. Fitzgerald was in a satisfactory condition Sunday evening, but would be hospitalised overnight for observation. No details of his injuries were immediately available. Bungee jumping was banned last year in the neighbouring state of New South Wales, after former Miss Australia beauty contest winner Nathalie McCurry suffered back injuries when equipment failed during a jump she was making in Sydney.

### Killer bees migrating to Texas

HOUSTON (AP) — Up to 200 swarms of africanised honey bees have invaded south Texas but are unlikely to attack, a researcher has said. "I doubt one person in a thousand will see an africanised bee colony," said Dr. John Thomas, Texas Agricultural Extension Service entomologist. Ninety per cent of the swarms were detected within 10 miles (16 kilometres) of the Rio Grande, he said. The heaviest fronts are in Mexico between 50 and 75 miles (80 and 120 kilometres) from the border. About 600 deaths have been attributed to the bees, mostly in South America. A brownsville man was stung 18 times in May after he disturbed a hive with a riding mower. He survived. Thomas said the bees must be provoked before they will attack. "They won't bother anyone more than a regular honey bee if they're encountered in flight," Thomas said.

### Defrosting plane bathroom showers

BABYLON, N.Y. (AP) — Look up in the sky it's a bird... It's a plane... No, actually, it's falling from a plane... It's an enormous chunk of frozen urine. A defrosting plane bathroom apparently dropped chunks of frozen urine over Babylon Thursday, smashing a car window, snapping tree limbs and scaring residents of a quiet suburban street. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), which investigated the falling debris, made its determination Friday.

## Sri Lankan rebels massacre 24

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Tamil Tiger rebels raided two fishing villages in north-central Sri Lanka and shot and hacked to death 24 people as they slept, a government minister said Sunday.

Further north in Vavuniya district, soldiers blew up a rebel bunker early Sunday, killing 10 rebels, military officials said at the Joint Operations Command, the centre of the government's anti-guerrilla operations.

The violence ended a two-week lull in the protracted ethnic war between the Sinhalese-dominated government and the rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

Major military offensives against the guerrillas were halted after the rebels exploded a powerful truck bomb June 21 at the Joint Operations Command, killing about 60 people.

Deputy Irrigation Minister Hewa Nelson said a group of 30 guerrillas raided the village of Padur in Polonnaruwa district late Saturday and killed 15 Muslim fishermen.

"It was a heinous crime. These defenceless people were fast asleep in the tiny village when the terrorists crept into their homes... and butchered them in cold blood," said Mr. Nelson.

He said the victims included two women and a one-month

baby.

The rebels then moved to Korapalawilla village a kilometre away and killed nine Sinhalese traders.

Mr. Nelson, who represents the Polonnaruwa district in parliament, said he visited the two villages and saw the 24 bodies.

He said the Sinhalese men had come to Korapalawilla to buy fish and had stayed overnight.

Officials had earlier said all the victims were Muslim.

They said the rebels fled into nearby jungles after hacking and shooting their victims. The area is about 170 kilometres northeast of Colombo.

## Malaysian state chief denounces arrested foreigners

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — The chief minister of Malaysia's Sarawak state said Sunday that eight foreign environmentalists arrested in anti-logging protests "have no right to come and stir up trouble in the state."

The eight were arrested Friday for chaining themselves to or climbing up loading cranes to protest the cutting of Malaysia's rich rain forests and its effect on nomadic people of the Penan tribe. The Penans say the logging destroys game and their natural homes.

Chief Minister Abdul Taib Mahmud criticised the eight especially because they had come purportedly as tourists.

He made his comments to reporters in Kuching, Sarawak's capital. The Malaysian News Agency, Bernama, reported from the state on Borneo Island.

The youth wing of Mr. Taib's party, the Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu, issued a statement demanding stern action against all involved in the demonstration in Kuala Baram.

The demonstrators "have greatly angered the people of Sarawak as this is a clear case of foreigners meddling in the internal affairs of the state and country," said the statement, issued by leader Celestine Ujang.

Police in Miri, 123 kilometres south east of the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur, said by telephone Sunday that investigations of the eight were continuing.

Two other environmentalists ordered Saturday to leave Malaysia within three days, had left Miri to fly out of Malaysia.

The protest site, Kuala Baram, is 16 kilometres from Miri, at the mouth of the Baram River. Logs cut in interior jungles are floated down the river from there for loading on ships bound for Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, India and the United States, major importers of Malaysian timber.

Two of the protesters were Germans from the Robin Wood Environmental Group. They had climbed up and hung from 30-metre tall cranes on barges being loaded with logs to be taken to a Japanese ship.

## EC states agree on need to coordinate emergency aid

APELDOORN, The Netherlands (R) — European Community (EC) member states have agreed on a clear need to coordinate their emergency humanitarian aid.

"We are giving hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars each year and it is not being done in a very efficient way," said Dutch Development Minister Jan Pronk.

He was speaking after the first day of an informal two-day meeting of EC development ministers in this northern Dutch town.

The EC has recently mounted major relief operations for Kurdish refugees, victims of cyclones in Bangladesh and people facing famine in Africa.

Mr. Pronk said the ministers discussed ways of making EC aid quicker and ensuring member states did not work at cross purposes, including the possibility of creating an EC aid agency — an idea favoured by EC Development Commissioner Manuel Marin.

The Netherlands repeated its suggestion military equipment and personnel could be used to distribute food in the Horn of Africa but there was no reaction from other countries, Mr. Pronk said.

But the ministers did agree

there should be a link between the Community's long-term development aid to Third World countries and their record on human rights.

Mr. Pronk said the EC planned to send its diplomatic "troika" — ministers from the last, current and next holder of the EC's rotating presidency — to developing countries in Africa and Asia.

Ethiopia, Mozambique, Angola and Bangladesh were possible destinations but no timetable had yet been drawn up, he said.

EC sources said the ministers could, for example, express support for countries where human rights were respected and put pressure on states where they were not.

Mr. Pronk said the ministers would draw up before their next meeting in November a draft resolution covering criteria for assessing human rights, positive action to help countries with a good record and ways of coordinating sanctions in the case of obvious abuses.

At present there are no formal guidelines linking EC aid and human rights although the European Commission, the EC executive, has in the past suspended help to countries like Sudan and Liberia where there were violations.

## Congress returns to battle Bush

WASHINGTON (R) — Battles with President George Bush on China trade, foreign policy issues and abortion-related legislation head the agenda as the U.S. Congress returns from a week-long break marking Independence Day.

In the Senate, preparations will be under way for Judiciary Committee questioning of Mr. Bush's controversial Supreme Court nominee, Judge Clarence Thomas, probably in September.

During a busy month leading up to Congress's traditional August recess, leaders in the House of Representatives are expected to give the go-ahead for a formal investigation into charges that the election campaign of ex-President Ronald Reagan sought in 1980 to delay release of U.S. hostages in Iran.

The House will be the first to lock horns with the president when it debates Bush's proposal to extend China's most favoured nation (MFN) trade status, probably Wednesday.

It is expected to attach conditions demanding progress on human rights and other issues and assurances Peking has not violated international curbs on missile and nuclear exports.

Mr. Bush opposes any conditions. The administration is expected to make its stand in the Senate where a bipartisan group of senators is seeking to head off the sanctions drive.

The Senate's first business will be to compete work on a crime bill that includes a waiting period for purchase of handguns. The House has passed a separate handgun bill.

Among major measures awaiting Senate action is a controversial energy bill that would open up the Arctic wildlife refuge in Alaska to oil and gas exploration and a separate bill setting new fuel efficiency standards for cars.

The former is opposed by environmentalists and the latter by the auto industry, already facing heavy losses.

A divisive debate over abortion rights will be revived when the Senate acts on a House-passed bill funding the Health and Human Services Department for the financial year starting on Oct. 1.

The measure, which faces a veto, would suspend a rule barring government funding for family planning clinics giving referrals on abortion. The Supreme Court upheld the rule but Congress is preparing to overturn its decision.

The administration is also threatening to veto a House-passed foreign aid authorisation bill.

Mr. Bush has never lost a veto battle with Congress.

## Mount Pinatubo raises anxiety at Philippines' most active volcano

TAAL VOLCANO, Philippines (AP) — Mount Pinatubo's devastation, and rumblings deep inside the earth here, are raising anxiety among thousands of Filipinos who live on one of the country's most active volcanoes.

Three months before Mount Pinatubo erupted and killed more than 330 people, scientists became concerned that Taal volcano, 60 kilometres south of Manila, was gearing up for a new eruption because of earth tremors and other activity.

Taal is a 23-square-kilometre volcano-island, with 47 craters and 35 cones, sitting in the middle of a 127-square-kilometre lake, formed by pre-historic eruptions.

Last March, officials urged the nearly 5,000 residents to leave the island, whose lush green slopes are marked by soft undulating contours formed by previous eruptions.

When no eruption occurred, most drifted back to tend their crops and resume commercial fishing in the placid waters of Taal Lake.

Nonetheless, residents are uneasy because of uncertainty over Taal's future and the example of volcanic destruction from Pinatubo, which dumped traces of fresh, white ash over the black residue of previous eruptions at Taal.

"We're very scared, especially with Pinatubo," said Marina Mendoza, 24, who lives with her husband and two children about 1.5 kilometres southwest of the volcano's most active crater. "We stay here because this is where our home and jobs are. We have no place else to go."

Only a culture such as that of the Philippines, with its emphasis on fatalism, could produce people willing to live, work and raise their families on top a seething, natural time-bomb.

Whereas Mount Pinatubo was dormant for 600 years before awakening last month, Taal has been historically among the world's most active and deadly volcanoes.

Taal has erupted 11 times during this century, most recently in November 1977. The eruption of 1911 killed 1,334 people, including the entire population of the island, and rained ash down on Manila.

In 1754, the volcano erupted with such force that the explosions could be heard 400 kilometres to the north and four major towns were buried under the ash and debris.

Scientists say there is evidence that a pre-historic eruption of Taal hurled tonnes of debris past Manila and was responsible for a layer of volcanic materials beneath Quezon City, a suburb of the capital.

## Mount Pinatubo raises anxiety at Philippines' most active volcano

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"We're very scared, especially with Pinatubo," said Marina Mendoza, 24, who lives with her husband and two children about 1.5 kilometres southwest of the volcano's most active crater. "We stay here because this is where our home and jobs are. We have no place else to go."

Only a culture such as that of the Philippines, with its emphasis on fatalism, could produce people willing to live, work and raise their families on top a seething, natural time-bomb.

Whereas Mount Pinatubo was dormant for 600 years before awakening last month, Taal has been historically among the world's most active and deadly volcanoes.

Taal has erupted 11 times during this century, most recently in November 1977. The eruption of 1911 killed 1,334 people, including the entire population of the island, and rained ash down on Manila.

In 1754, the volcano erupted with such force that the explosions could be heard 400 kilometres to the north and four major towns were buried under the ash and debris.

Scientists say there is evidence that a pre-historic eruption of Taal hurled tonnes of debris past Manila and was responsible for a layer of volcanic materials beneath Quezon City, a suburb of the capital.

## Mount Pinatubo raises anxiety at Philippines' most active volcano

TAAL VOLCANO, Philippines (AP) — Mount Pinatubo's devastation, and rumblings deep inside the earth here, are raising anxiety among thousands of Filipinos who live on one of the country's most active volcanoes.

Three months before Mount Pinatubo erupted and killed more than 330 people, scientists became concerned that Taal volcano, 60 kilometres south of Manila, was gearing up for a new eruption because of earth tremors and other activity.

Taal is a 23-square-kilometre volcano-island, with 47 craters and 35 cones, sitting in the middle of a 127-square-kilometre lake, formed by pre-historic eruptions.

Last March, officials urged the nearly 5,000 residents to leave the island, whose lush green slopes are marked by soft undulating contours formed by previous eruptions.

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## Australian move towards republic gathers momentum

SYDNEY (R) — Australia's move towards republic status by 2001, backed by the ruling Labour Party, gathered momentum Sunday with the formal launch of a republican movement backed by more than 100 prominent Australians.

International best-selling author Thomas Kenally, its chairman, said Australia would remain a stunted nation if it did not sever colonial ties with Britain.

The Labour Party resolved at its national conference in June to seek republic status by 2001, ending the role of Queen Elizabeth as Queen of Australia.

Mr. Kenally said more than 100 leading Australians had signed a declaration proposing that the national goal should be to become an independent republic by Jan. 1, 2001.

Among the signatories are former Australian cricket captain Ian Chappell, actor Bryan Brown, film director Fred Schepisi, lawyer Malcolm Turnbull, playwright David Williamson and former New South Wales Premier Neville Wran.

Australians felt a sense of superiority in that they would be looked after by Britain and a sense of inferiority that they could not speak with an independent voice, Mr. Kenally said.

"Both these suspicions are delusions and both have damaged us and have kept and will con-

tinue to keep us a stunted nation," he added.

He said declaring Australia independent of Britain was like a child leaving home.

Mr. Chappell said his strong desire for republicanism stemmed in part from years spent trying to beat England at cricket.

"After 16 years trying to beat them on the cricket pitch, I would really hate to think they were trying to rule us in any other way," he said.

The Labour government's targeted date for establishing a republic marks the centenary of the constitution establishing Australia as a federation of states retaining its colonial link with the British monarch as head of state.

About 75 per cent of Australia's 17 million people can trace their roots to settlers from Britain and Ireland, which still rank behind only New Zealand as a source of immigrants.

Australians have rejected calls for a republic in referenda over the past 20 years but a spokeswoman for the Australian Republican Movement (ARM) said their prime aim was to educate people to build up majority support.

ARM wants a referendum on the issue by the late 1990s. A recent poll conducted by the Sydney Morning Herald showed over 52 per cent of those interviewed wanted a republic by 2001.

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## Airport pact signals start of Chinese era in Hong Kong

HONG KONG (AP) — China's victory in a battle over the Hong Kong Airport project signifies a new era in its relations with the British colony, which reverts to Chinese control in 1997.

Peking's widely recognised role as the shadow governor of Hong Kong finally came out in the open, and Britain's stature as lord of the last jewel in its colonial crown dropped a notch or two.

As for Hong Kong's dreams of autonomy, promised in a 1984 declaration by London and Peking, those have all but ended.

Colonial officials did not participate in the talks leading up to last week's agreement on the airport. Chinese and British officials, not those from Hong Kong, will dominate implementation of the plan.

Now the stage is set for work to start on airport. Bids for construction of a 4,719-foot (1,439-metre) suspension bridge are scheduled to start by the end of

this month, Sir David Wilson, governor of Hong Kong, said in announcing the agreement Thursday.

American firms hope to play a major role in all facets of the \$16.2 billion undertaking. Bechtel Inc., the U.S. engineering giant, has been appointed project manager.

Some Hong Kong residents might say Britain sold them out, but the agreement is probably the best the capitalist enclave's 5.7 million people could expect.

It recognises the power China always had in the territory, but in an important switch, challenges Peking to be constructive between now and July 1, 1997, when it takes over.

China also got a bonus. Prime Minister John Major of Britain will visit Peking soon, becoming the first Western leader to do so since the brutal crackdown on a pro-democracy movement more than two years ago.

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Japan's prime minister, Toshiki Kaifu, visits in August.

In an editorial Friday, the English-language Hong Kong Standard said the deal "had to be struck. Not to talk things over is like two people about to be married maintaining a stony silence until the wedding day."

The agreement ends more than 18 months of wrangling over plans to build the airport and refurbish Hong Kong's container port, the busiest in the world.

Governor Wilson said China won the right to be consulted extensively on each step of the project and on any other major infrastructure plans undertaken before 1977.

Such an arrangement, which he termed "sensible," will give Peking unprecedented say in the colony's development.

It also secured the right to influence the project's financing, and Chinese firms will compete

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